NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER-----FOR THE FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

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New England Farmer.

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A. W. CHEEVER, ...AGRICULTURAL EDITOR.
RUSSELL P. EATON, ...GENERAL EDITOR.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

In reply to inquiries, we would say that the FARMER will be sent to all subscribers until a discontinuance is ordered. The date to which payment is made is given on each paper, so that every subscriber can ascertain for himself the time when his subscription ends.

We would also state that our *lowest and only terms* are given on our third page. We have no Club Terms. We have fixed our rates as low as the times will allow, and we give our readers their full money's worth.

☞See Third Page for Terms, &c..☜

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Editorial.

SUCCESSFUL FARMING IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Never, since our acquaintance with the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, have we heard a paper read that seemed to give more general satisfaction to those who listened, than did the paper entitled "My Farming Experience," by A. W. Paul, of Dighton. Mr. Paul, though decidedly unostentatious, is thoroughly in earnest as a farmer. He comes before the public with no axe to grind, but simply responds to the call of the Board and in a modest and straightforward manner, tells his experience in cultivating a small farm, just as a kind hearted older brother might be expected to talk to and encourage those in need of such experience.

He commenced, as a farmer, about thirty years ago, purchasing a small and badly run out farm of twenty-eight acres, with poor buildings, and a very inferior lot of farming stock and tools, and having very little means, run in debt for the whole. The farm was divided into eleven fields, each having dry knolls, and wet miry holes, so that work could not be carried on early in spring with any degree of comfort or with much profit. Having little ready cash, his first query was where to get the manure for fertilizing his newly purchased acres. At that time he thought the making of pork would be the readiest method of increasing the fertility of his farm, so he went into the business in a cautious, prudent manner, buying or breeding pigs, and purchasing sufficient meal and other food for producing from five to six thousand pounds of pork per year. In favorable seasons he made a profit on his hogs, and in one year cleared $95 on three, selling the pork at twenty cents per pound, while it cost him but ten cents. By keeping strict and accurate accounts with his business, he found that he could predict, with a good degree of certainty, what his pork would cost, knowing the price of the grain fed. As a rule he found that pork sold in the carcass should bring as many cents per pound as the meal cost dimes per bushel, in order to get his money back and have the manure for the labor of feeding and the general management of the business. So, if corn cost sixty cents per bushel, the pork should sell for six cents per pound.

He made it a practice to kill twice a year, and was most successful in selling pork that was not more than six or eight months old.

Another means of increasing the fertility of the farm was the purchase of all the wood ashes he could gather in the vicinity, either leached or unleached, paying at the rate of from twelve to seventeen cents per bushel. For twelve years he used annually from 500 to 900 bushels of ashes on his land. He also bought considerable quantities of guano and Brighton fertilizers. One year, finding that he had cleared $300 from the sale of crops, he immediately laid out $1000 for manure for another year, and for a number of years his purchases of manure averaged some $700, while about $200 worth was made on the farm. He now purchases most of his manure in Boston, on cars, and spreads it in the fall, ploughing it in from two and a half to three inches deep, using a small plough with very sharp point. Special fertilizers are applied in the spring or during the growing season. His work is all mapped out as fully as possible a year ahead, so there is no delay or hesitation when the time comes for pushing things. The crops, as a rule, are sold as soon as they are ready for market, and the proceeds deposited in bank, from which it is drawn out by checks for paying bills. He invariably pays cash for everything, and purchases at wholesale as far as practicable. Has no store or blacksmith's bills running up against him to be disputed over when the day for settlement arrives. Prefers to hire money and pay interest on it, to letting small bills accumulate. By paying cash he also finds he is able to make quite a saving in his purchases.

The wet portions of his farm have been underdrained, so that now it can be ploughed and worked uniformly, and much earlier in the season than formerly. Stones were used at first, but as some of the drains become choked he adopted round tiles, which give perfect satisfaction, when properly laid. Different sizes are laid according to the amount of water to be discharged, from 1½ inch to five inches in diameter.

Mr. Paul's method of hiring help has been a little peculiar. He has paid out from $900 to $1400 per year for labor, and has one man with him who has stuck by for fourteen years, and yet he seldom makes any bargain in advance, but pays according to the profits of the season's business. He has paid higher rates than his neighbors—sometimes as high as $3 per day and dinner. He finds that it pays to have his help personally interested in the work. His crops have been hay, potatoes and onions, but strawberries have been a leading product. He has been slow to change from one crop to another, but never hesitates to do so, when convinced that a change is advisable. For the past seven years his annual sales have been in the neighborhood of $5000, sometimes falling a little short, and frequently overrunning. During the past year or two the receipts have somewhat fallen off, but, as the expenses have been less, the average net profit has been maintained. He not only plans his work a year in advance, but keeps constantly ahead of his work. His wood house has a year's stock of seasoned wood on hand all the time, and he finds that one cord of such wood is worth two of that which some other farmers burn which has been exposed to the weather for many months.

He has no patience with grumbling farmers, those who are always complaining of the weather or the hard times. Children, grown up under such influences, must be expected to leave the farm as soon as they become of age, if not before.

Having unfortunately been "born very ignorant," the lecturer said he had found books and papers of great use to him. He had usually found it necessary to call to his aid about twelve newspapers and periodicals, including agricultural, political, religious and local publications. He was not unwilling to be called a "book farmer," after having learned so much from reading. The money which some would have spent for rum or tobacco, he had laid out in books. He had noticed that many farmers fail in not looking ahead and anticipating wants. The man who takes his team and men to a distant part of the farm for a half day's work, and when he arrives finds that the whiffletree, or hoe, or drink was forgotten, and some one must go back for them, will seldom become a successful farmer. Delays of this kind upon his own farm have been very rare. Forethought saves a deal of labor, but it is no use to hope to succeed without working for it. The man who hopes to win by his wits, without labor, will, sooner or later, find himself short of capital.

His live stock now consists of one cow and two horses, and of the twenty-eight acres contained in the farm only sixteen have as yet been brought under cultivation. Like other men, he had made some mistakes. At one time, he used nitrate of soda so freely on a potato field as to destroy the crop, but he had at another time received as high as $400 for the yield of potatoes from a single acre. After he had been in possession of his farm twenty-two years, he found himself free of debt, and the farm well stocked with such animals and tools as were needed. Since that time, he has been able to maintain himself and family, pay his proportion of the public expenses of government and society, keep his farm improving, and lay aside for a rainy day about $1500 per annum.

In reply to a question, Mr. Paul said that he never composts his manure, but trusts the soil to do all the composting needed.

After the close of the lecture, A. W. Cheever, of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, said that, on behalf of the great brotherhood of practical working farmers of Massachusetts, he felt that he ought to thank Mr. Paul for coming to the front with his experience, and so freely exhibiting his business before the world. Many farmers are successful beside Mr. Paul, but it is very rarely that one can be found who is willing in the face of town assessors and public criticism to make a clear, open exhibit of his ledger and balance sheet. It is often said that farming in New England does not pay for both the labor and the capital invested; that when a farmer figures up his accounts at the end of the year, he must either throw out his wages, or his interest, or, in other words, if farmers would sell their farms, and put the money out at interest, and then go out to work at the same rate of wages they now pay their help, they would have more money at the end of the year than they possibly can by keeping their farms and managing them the best they know how. Prof. Stockbridge stated before a farmers' club last winter that, if the farmers of Massachusetts would keep an accurate account of their business, and would give the farm all the credit due it, many of them who now complain of small profits would find that their capital invested is annually paying them fifteen per cent., and some of them much more than that. Now I would like to inquire of Mr. Paul if he can tell us what per cent. on the capital invested his farming has paid him during those years in which he has been paying his debts and setting aside a surplus against a rainy day.

Mr. Paul in reply said that, without going into very fine figures, he was confident that his capital had not paid less than fifteen per cent. interest, after allowing his own living and that of his family to be offset by his own labor.

Mr. Geo. B. Williams, of Waltham, replied that, if Mr. Paul could find a gain of fifteen per cent. on his capital in that way of figuring it, he would find that it would be considerably more than that, if he would keep his books as business men have to keep theirs. When a merchant in the city keeps books, in order to learn how much his business pays, he does not take his living out of his income before he strikes a balance. People seldom give the farm due credit for what income it brings to the owner. They take up or draw out the income from day to day in house rent, fuel, food, carriage rides and luxuries, without giving the farm any credit at all. He believed that, if the books were kept correctly, it could be shown that farming, on the average, pays a much better percentage on the investment than do mercantile pursuits. The trouble in this matter is, we are always comparing unsuccessful farmers with successful merchants.

Mr. Slade, of Somerset, said he was a neighbor to Mr. Paul, and could say that he was good authority upon any farming matter upon which he chose to speak. It had been his own belief that farmers, as a class, lose by changing from one thing to another. They do not stick to one thing long enough to succeed. If a crop they are raising this year sells low, and another they are not growing sells high, ten to one they will change next year, and lose by the change. In his own practice, he had endeavored to stick to a certain line of production till he was satisfied that a change would bring him better results. Every farmer must decide for himself what crops it is best for him to grow. Corn raising had been advocated by speakers during this meeting, but supposing Mr. Paul, with only his sixteen acres of land under cultivation, should put it all into corn, where would his profits be, compared with what he now receives. I found long ago that I cannot live where I am by raising corn, or by fatting beef or pork. We can do better with small fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Whitaker, of Needham, said that he had been a little amused to hear this talk about farmers losing by changing from one thing to another, as though it was a weakness peculiar to a class. The fact is, manufacturers lose quite as much, and quite as often, by changing their products, as do farmers. Then when we talk about the large profits of trade in cities, and the small gains from farming in the country, we ought to know better. Why! our wealthiest cities, if put under the hammer today, would not sell for enough to pay their debts, but where will you show me a farming community that cannot pay its debts?

The discussion then turning upon some of the minor points in Mr. Paul's paper, was kept up by Messrs. Humphrey, of the New Hampshire Board of Agriculture, Prof. Goessmann, Secretary Flint, and others, until the hour of adjournment.

Though this was the first attempt of the speaker to lecture upon agricultural subjects, he could have little doubt of its appreciation, after receiving a half dozen invitations to repeat it before as many different farmers' clubs in the State. It does farmers good to look at a man who says "I make farming pay a good profit." We all grumble too much.

A NEW COLOR FROM COAL TAR.—The most recently discovered and perhaps the most remarkable of all the coloring substances produced from coal tar is named "Uranine," and samples of it have been liberally distributed from the office of the *Scientific American*, New York. There is authority of chemists for the assertion that it is the most highly fluorescent body known to science. Its coloring power is astonishing; a single grain will impart a marked color to nearly five hundred gallons of water. By sprinkling a few atoms of the powder, which has a reddish appearance, upon the surface of a tumbler of water, a very pretty result may be had. The color is quickly imparted to the water in a spreading mass of delicate rootlets, which spreading at length give a mass of soft, green-colored liquid. Viewed by transmitted light the color changes to a bright golden amber hue, while a combination of green and gold will be realized according to the position in which the glass is held.

PREMIUMS FOR BOYS.

Is there any reason why the farmer's boy should not be encouraged to compete for premiums at the annual show, as well as his father? Would not some such recognition of his importance in the carrying on of the farm work be a great aid in encouraging him to remain on the farm, instead of looking ahead to take advantage of the first opportunity that offers to enter the struggle of city life, or to go out to the far West where frontier life and free homesteads hold out strong inducements to the adventurous and energetic? The question is an important one, and will bear serious consideration. Meantime, we are glad to note that Stilman B. Allen, Esq., of this city, has taken a step in the right direction in making the following offer, which, with the conditions of the trial, we copy:—

With an earnest desire to encourage the farmers' boys, I propose to offer the following prizes to boys of York County, Me., of sixteen years of age and under. To the boy who shall raise the most Indian corn on one-eighth of an acre of land in the year 1879, one hundred dollars. To the boy who shall raise the next largest quantity, fifty dollars, and to the five boys who shall raise the next largest quantity, ten dollars each. The awards will be made subject to the following conditions:

1st—Every contestant must have resided in York County at least two years, and be under seventeen years of age on June 1st, 1879.

2d—All entries must be made and communicated to the President of the York County Agricultural Society on or before May 1, 1879.

3d—The land shall be measured by some person appointed for that purpose by the President of said society, during the summer of 1879. The corn may grow to the edge of the line, but in no case beyond it.

4th—The land may be of any shape, but not less than two rods wide.

5th—The contestants must do all the work in raising the corn, except that they may have some one to drive the oxen or horses in ploughing and cultivating.

6th—The contestants may use as much, and any kind of manure, as they please; and may hoe the corn as many times as, and when they choose.

7th—The corn is to be measured under the direction of the President of said Society.

8th—At the end of the season, each contestant shall make and sign a full report, giving shape, description and location of land, when planted, when and how many times hoed, when stalks were topped, if at all, when harvested and how much is raised, and as nearly as can be estimated the value of manure and number of days' labor spent upon the crop, excluding the husking, when he may have all the help he wants from the boys and girls in the neighborhood.

9th—All awards to be made by the President of said Society at the end of the season, and his decision shall be final.

There are many counties in New England besides York County, where a similar offer would be productive of much good, and there is still time for Mr. Allen's example to be followed. We shall be pleased to make the FARMER the medium for announcing the offer, and to publish the reports of the successful contestants.

AMERICAN DAIRYMENS' ASSOCIATION.

The fourteenth annual convention of this Association will be held at Utica, N. Y., commencing on Tuesday of next week, Jan. 14, and continuing three days. Papers are expected from the following named gentlemen on the subjects given:—

Prof. G. C. Caldwell, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.—"New Thoughts on Old Topics—Ferments and Salt."

Prof. L. B. Arnold, Rochester, N. Y.—"Cheese and Cheese Making."

Solomon Hoxie, Whitestown, N. Y.—"Holsteins for the Dairy."

W. L. Rutherford, Waddington, N. Y.—"Jerseys for the Dairy."

Hon. Harris Lewis, Frankfort, N. Y.—"Shorthorns for the Dairy."

Prof. W. R. Lazenby, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.—"Principles of Feeding."

J. M. Peters, New York City.—"Commercial Aspects of the Dairy."

Prof. Francis E. Englehardt, Syracuse, N. Y.—"Salt in the Animal Economy and as a Fertilizer."

J. V. H. Scovill, Paris, N. Y.—"Lessons of the Census," illustrated with maps.

Major T. F. McElrath, Editor of the *American Dairyman*, New York City—"Literature of the Dairy."

Dr. L. L. Wight, Whitestown, N. Y.—"Marketing Cheese."

Prof. E. W. Stewart, Lake View, N. Y.—"Farm Buildings."

T. D. Curtis, Editor of the *Utica Republican*, Utica, N. Y.—"Profit and Loss in Dairying."

Hon. Horatio Seymour, President of the Association, is expected to give a short address on such topic as he may choose.

A large attendance and an unusually interesting meeting are anticipated, and arrangements have been made for reduced prices of board for those attending.

FARM LAW.—In our next issue we shall give the readers of the FARMER, the address of Judge Bennett upon the subject of Farm Law, as delivered before the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, at Hingham. We had taken quite liberal notes for publication, but as legal statements to be worth anything, must be absolutely correct, and as several of our subscribers have requested a full report, we shall give it instead of our own abstract. It will be published wholly on one page, so that it may be conveniently cut out for preservation in a scrap book or otherwise. Every reader of the FARMER would do well to place this lecture where he can refer to it, in case of doubt concerning any law points therein treated. It may save many lawsuits, and much expense.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

SALT AS A FERTILIZER.

Will the quantity of salt beneficial to asparagus, injure pear trees, as I have some growing between the rows of my orchard? What properties does salt lose in packing fish, and how much less is it worth to use as a manure? Please answer these questions through the NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Lexington, Mass., Dec. 24, 1878. E. A. M.

REMARKS.—So much of the salt used in packing fish or any kind of meat as is dissolved, is simply changed to brine, and brine is nothing more nor less than salt in solution. Salt used for packing meat or fish, if applied in over abundance so that it is not all dissolved, remains salt still, and nothing else. Salt from an old pork barrel may be simply washed and come out as clean and fit to use as new salt from the store. Crystals of salt melt or dissolve from the outside, like blocks of ice. Fish brine containing much oil might be slightly injurious applied to the soil, but washed salt from fish barrels is just as valuable for agricultural purposes as the best dairy or table brands in market, while it can be bought for a much smaller sum. As to the use of salt at all upon cultivated soils, there is quite a diversity of opinion. Some people believe that a few bushels of salt applied to an acre of land will destroy all insects which may infest the soil, but we have not a particle of faith in its use for that purpose. Salt enough to kill insects would destroy every living plant in the soil. It is also a disputed point whether asparagus requires salt. It is called a marine plant because it was said to have been first found near salt water, but it certainly grows well away from the shore, and where no salt is ever applied. Practical market gardeners, so far as we know, do not have much faith in salt as a fertilizer for asparagus. The subject has been discussed at meetings of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, and the statement there made that the principal effect of salt seems to be to retard the growth of the stalks in spring, thus making the crop some days later. On the other hand, Prof. Stockbridge finds, by analysis, that asparagus contains a much larger proportion of soda than most plants, and therefore infers that salt *may* be a necessary fertilizer, but whether he has made any practical field experiments to prove its value, we are not informed.

From the above, you will see that your question concerning the application of salt is not easy to answer. Asparagus will *probably* bear a larger amount of salt in the soil than will pear trees, although we must admit that we do not *know* that to be a fact. Asparagus will bear more salt than the weeds which grow in the bed, simply because the former usually has its roots deeper down in the soil, where they would be less affected by the salt than surface weeds. Occasionally we find, in our exchanges, accounts of wonderful results following the free or limited use of salt to the soil, but most farmers have very little faith in it as a fertilizer. It is certainly used but very little among any farmers with whom we are acquainted.

GROWING SUGAR BEETS.

As I see the question of using sugar beets is being discussed, I thought I would send you an account of mine. They were planted June 3d, on 17½ square rods of old, mellow soil.

	Cr.
By 101 bushels beets at 12c.	$12 12
" lot of tops	1 00
	$13 12

	Dr.
To seed, at 40c ♥ lb.	$ 10
" manure, 1½ cords, at $4	6 00
" labor, ploughing, &c.	6 00
	$12 10
Balance in favor of beets	$1 02

This statement differs from that of "L. A. D.," in the FARMER of Nov. 2d, but had I sold them at this price, the cost of hauling would have overcome the slight balance in favor of the beets.

No. Cornville, Me., Dec. 23, 1878. A. B. E.

BUCKWHEAT.

I wish to say a word to the readers of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER in regard to buckwheat. Why is it not grown more extensively in New England? It is a valuable feed for hogs and poultry; but it is more valuable for the table. Buckwheat cakes form one of the most agreeable and important articles of diet through the winter season, in this part of the country; at breakfast and dinner they are nearly always on the table, and why Eastern farmers do not raise more, is beyond my comprehension. It is a crop that can be put in after all others are in. The last of June would be the proper time to sow it in New England, and it seems to me that if the Eastern folks could once have a taste of buckwheat cakes, as we make them here, they could not get along without them, but even if not used in the family, it would, I think, be found a paying crop to raise to feed the hogs and poultry—at least it is here. F. H. D.

Steuben Co., N. Y., 1878.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & HAMPDEN.—The annual meeting of the Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden agricultural society occurred at the Northampton town hall, after which the members took dinner together in the lower hall. J. H. Demond, of Northampton, was re-elected president. When the matter of finances came up it was agreed that an effort ought to be made this year to raise $2500 to wipe out the floating debt of $1500, and help lift the permanent one of $7000. The 60th annual report of the society shows that the receipts of the last fair were $1337, or $166 above the average for the last four years.

LINCOLN, ME.—A meeting of the Lincoln County Agricultural Society was held at Damariscotta, Dec. 25th, and the following officers were chosen: President—Thos. Boyd, Boothbay. Vice Presidents—J. A. Simmons, Waldoboro'; Robert Montgomery, Boothbay; Elden Chapman and E. W. Stetson, Damariscotta; L. H. Winslow, Nobleboro'; Geo. B. Sawyer, Wiscasset. Trustees—Frank Partridge, Jefferson; John B. Rafter, Damariscotta, E. T. Hodge, Edgecomb. Secretary—E. W. Dunbar, Damariscotta. Treasurer—L. H. Winslow, Nobleboro'. The report of the treasurer was read and accepted. It shows that the society is in a healthy condition, having a balance of $1569. No place was designated for holding the next fair, but it will probably be Damariscotta.

WALDO & PENOBSCOT, ME.—At the annual meeting of this Society, Dec. 25, the following officers were elected:—President—J. W. Wallace. Vice Presidents—A. K. Fletcher, Secretary—E. H. Nealey. Treasurer—F. L. Palmer. Trustees—C. A. McKenney, Monroe; F. W. Ritchie, Winterport, F. C. West, Frankfort; Woodard Pierce, Prospect; C. Croxford, Newburgh; A. E. Nickerson, Swanville; E. D. Tasker, Jackson; Isaac T. Reynolds, Brooks; Amos Whitney, Dixmont.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The Rutland Co., Vt., society will hold their annual meeting at Rutland, on Wednesday next, Jan. 15.

The Deerfield Valley, Mass., society were to meet at Charlemont, on Monday, Jan. 6.

Correspondence.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

I have read your editorial, Mr. Editor, in the NEW ENGLAND FARMER of Oct. 26, with much interest, and I ask a brief space to review some of the points therein referred to. I am not pleased with the article, as there is too much of that fault-finding spirit about it which has characterized many other briefer articles and paragraphs of yours on the same subject, which have, from time to time, appeared in your columns—too many innuendos, too many slurs at their officers and their management. I have heard so much of that kind of croaking from men who never render aid or assistance for the support of fairs that it is displeasing even when found in the columns of so valuable a paper as the NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

I have had some connection with agricultural fairs, have watched their management closely, and have studied their standing and their influence with all the attention I am capable of bringing to bear upon the matter, and I can truthfully say that I believe there is enough yet left of them to commend them to the support and patronage of the public; that they are, under their present management, exerting a wide-spread, and much needed influence upon the agricultural and other industries of the country—an influence which we can ill afford to spare; and further, that they are not in any degree more detrimental to the morality of those who attend than are other gatherings of the people. You say "the primary object of all our agricultural societies is supposed to have been the promotion of agriculture, and the improvement of those engaged in it," and ask emphatically, "*Is* that object attained at the present time?" I believe, in a goodly measure, it is. In fact, I am in no wise certain but their influence in the direction for which they were originally instituted is as marked, at the present time, as at any period of their existence. I know there are some matters which officers find *very* difficult to manage; that it is the next thing to an impossibility to have justice and honesty prevail in all cases, yet in the main, heretofore and now, I believe judges are honestly selected, and that their decisions are in the main just. This claim holds good now to the full extent that it ever did, for officers are as faithful to their duties as ever, and men are no more dishonest than in the "good old times of long ago."

You insinuate that individuals have been prompted to get up new societies for the purpose of ringing themselves into office. If a mortal man can be found guilty of such an act, it must have been from a desire for notoriety rather than compensation, for experience has taught me, and observation elsewhere has confirmed it, that there is small compensation in store for an officer of an agricultural society. As a rule, he is the poorest paid of any one in attendance on the exhibition. The employes get their per diem, the exhibitors their premiums, the spectators get the benefit of the influence of the show, but the officers get neither. Sometimes they receive a meagre compensation for time, but usually it is insignificant in the extreme. Indeed, as a rule, all agricultural officers perform a deal of service for a little pay.

You raise the question, "What shall be the object of our fairs?" Judging from the tenor of your article, I should differ from you in regard to the specific object of agricultural fairs, and in regard to the manner in which their influence is made to impress itself upon those who are in attendance. I believe the most desirable influence of these fairs is not educational. In fact *instruction* is not so much needed at the present time among farmers as *exhortation*. Hence in the conduct of our fairs we need not study so much to convey definite information as to the exact method by which results were reached, as to incite enthusiasm, awaken thought, encourage research. The educational feature which you refer to, that is through definite statements, &c., is not without value, but I am fully persuaded that it is of subordinate value to the enthusiasm aroused by contact with the exhibits themselves. A lover of stock cannot go to a fair and look over the choice animals ranged side by side, without being spurred up to greater efforts towards equalling or excelling the noble animals he there found. He studies their points and compares the breeds. He does not ask a committee to tell him which is the best breed; he does not need to have them tell him which is the best animal, he can tell that himself.

You allude to the ploughing match at the last New England fair, and ask what real good such trials do; at the same time going on to say that the time has been when public ploughing matches were of great benefit, since they brought plough makers together, gave inventors an opportunity to learn what others were doing, and brought practical farmers to the field to criticise the work. Now, then, does not the modern ploughing match do the very same thing, and do not the similar benefits come of it? How is it that so great benefits went out from ploughing matches in good old times, yet now though similarly conducted, they are barren of good results? Have plough makers, inventors and farmers long since learned all that can be learned from meeting together and studying the ploughs and their work? It was a grand sight to see over half a hundred teams start into the contest for the prizes offered, and who doubts that the farmers there assembled to witness it left that field with an enthusiasm awakened which set their minds into active study on the merits and demerits of swivel ploughs, and on the advantages of good ploughing over the opposite; and also more than ever before realized the necessity for skill in holding, and an understanding in regard to gauging the plough and properly arranging the draft? These boys will go home to their own ploughing, and will lay out straighter furrows, turn them better, pulverize them more effectually, be better farmers, and make more intelligent men. It is not necessary for a committee to tell them which plough was best. There is the work, and it speaks for itself. Is not this making a ploughing match "educational?"

You also alluded to dairy exhibits, and ask who ever learned from a committee's report how to make better goods. I should say no one, nor is it necessary for a committee to make any report or even to have a committee at all in order to make an exhibition of dairy products "educational." It is from a comparison of samples, with themselves the judges, that butter makers and cheese makers gain valuable knowledge which leads to better products. A knowledge of the fact that others are excelling you is the kind of education a dairyman needs, and when he sees it himself he knows it. At an impromptu exhibition of samples of butter held recently in this town, in connection with a discussion of the subject of butter making a lady who was a very fair butter maker afterwards remarked that she thought, before she compared her butter with some other samples there shown, that hers was good butter. It did not need a committee to educate her to a knowledge of the superiority of certain samples. Does any one doubt that she is now trying to improve the quality of her make?

There are other points in your article which I proposed to refer to, but I have said enough. If I have been too severe, I ask pardon. My excuse is that I believe our agricultural societies are still doing a good work in a direction still much needed. That there may be changes made in the management of fairs that will increase their usefulness, I do not dispute, but it is far easier to find faults in the old than to point out the better way.

Z. A. GILBERT.

East Turner, Me., Nov. 25, 1878.

REMARKS.—We have read your welcome article through very thoughtfully several times, then laid it by for a while, and again read it carefully. While reading the first page we were inclined to think you just a little severe, and almost unkind in your remarks concerning the stand taken by the NEW ENGLAND FARMER in relation to Agricultural Fairs, but, before closing, we came to the conclusion that you were perfectly conscientious in what you state, and so we don't mind the apparent severity. The discussion was started with the expectation that both sides would be shown up, and we thank you for stating your convictions so freely.

On many points both should agree fully. Agricultural Societies are still of use, and they will be needed a long while yet. Almost any society is better than no society. We have no desire to tear down and destroy, but to improve; but then who would ever think of repairing or improving anything without first discovering signs of decay. If we find fault, it is because we believe faults are present. Nor are we alone in observing them, for they are talked about and written about from one end of the land to the other. A feeling of dissatisfaction with our Fairs, bordering almost upon disgust, has been growing rapidly within the past few years among the better class of farmers all through the country. The fact is, there has been *too much* excitement and emulation connected with Agricultural Fairs of late, for excitement is never enduring and is seldom of lasting benefit.

Our correspondent can hardly, with truth, class any of our agricultural editors or publishers among those "who never render aid or assistance for the support of Fairs" for he must know that, without their assistance and support, they would come to grief at short notice. If any one thinks it is no labor to follow the numerous exhibitions now being held every year, from the first week in September to the last of October; to carefully inspect every entry and "write up" every man's exhibit, even to his *own* satisfaction; if to publish full lists of awards for the benefit chiefly of tradesmen who find they can advertize their wares in no way so cheaply; then the editors and publishers may rightly be classed with those who never render aid or assistance for the support of Fairs. Two classes are now appealing to the agricultural journals for assistance. One class says, do pray help us about our fair. We have a heavy debt on our hands for grounds, buildings and race course, and the interest is eating us up. We bought and built when times were good and prices excited, and we thought they would remain so, but the value of the property has fallen, and the people seem to be losing their interest, and unless you can get up an enthusiasm among your readers, and get them out to the fair we shall surely have to go into bankruptcy. We expect the Governor, and the fire companies are all going to turn out, and if you can "blow" for us "real loud" we hope to draw a crowd, and so pay our interest and keep the debt from growing any larger. And to put a point, to their appeal they insinuate, very plainly, that "unless you help us, we shall certainly stop our paper, for we won't help those who won't help us."

The other class come along after the fair, and charge us with aiding a big humbug, fraud, or swindle. They say the dinner was poor, while the tickets were extravagantly high, that the Governor didn't come, and they don't believe he ever promised to; the cattle, hogs, sheep, swine, poultry, vegetables, fruit and flowers were no better, if as good, as they had been many times before, and many of them no better than such as they have at home, which they should not think of showing at any fair; that the entrance fees are just as high as they were when times were a great deal better; that the horse racing, pool selling, and gambling, in its multiplied forms, the side shows of charcoal minstrels, the auction sales of brass jewelry, the cooky stands and drinking booths seemed to be about all there was to the fair any way, and as for patronizing such exhibitions, and bringing their families within such influences, they will not do it. And this is the tone of hundreds of letters we could have cut from our exchanges, during the past autumn, written by good, honest farmers from all parts of the country from Maine to Minnesota, and from Canada to California. And it is not the aim of these writers to tear down or destroy, nor has it been ours. We see faults, and we point them out, as in duty bound. We then ask our readers to discuss them, and apply the remedy as the case demands.

Our correspondent is, in a measure, correct in his assertion that the agricultural societies exert a good influence, and that judges are generally honestly selected, but we ask if the influence of these societies cannot and ought not to be made *still better*, and if our system of selecting judges and awarding premiums cannot be so purified that we may be led into temptation less. Is our popular system perfect, and if not, what can we do to perfect it?

We will pass the allusion to the objects which induce men to get up rival societies with only this remark, that, for either spite or distinction, there are many men who are always ready to work, and for these ends consider themselves amply paid.

As to education vs. exhortation, we will let it rest as a matter of opinion. We will stand by education, however, a while longer, especially if the exhortation is chiefly of that sort which comes from professional men and politicians in the after dinner speeches at our festivals, where the farmers are told for the hundredth time how happy and independent they are, and how much better off at home on the farm than they could be any where else. It may be all well enough to exhort farmers to improve their ways, but it would seem that it is quite as essential to teach them *how* they may improve.

As to ploughing matches, it may or it may *not* be a grand sight to see fifty teams competing for a prize. It depends very much upon whether there is an intelligent plan controlling their action, and a good feeling existing between the contestants, or whether the strife is the strife of war, of intrigue and deception. We simply ask the question, are our ploughing matches what they ought to be? If the public say yes, then they will be continued just as they have been, till somebody sees a chance for improvement. For our own part, we deem a plough trial very defective where neither ploughman nor judge has any clear idea as to which wins, the team, the driver, the ploughman, the plough, the plough maker, or the accidental strip of land ploughed.

What you say of committees on ploughing and dairy exhibits we agree to in the main. We believe just as good, and often better results might come from exhibitions without than with committees. Indeed, we are inclined to try the experiment of making the several exhibitors their own judges. That would place them all upon their honor, and honor is a noble instinct and one well worthy of being more generally cultivated. At any rate, we will urge the trial of the plan upon the first opportunity that occurs.

For the New England Farmer.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

In a selection headed "Spontaneous Ignition of Hay," which appeared in the NEW ENGLAND FARMER a few weeks ago, a case is cited of what appeared to be spontaneous combustion of a hay mow in Amherst, last July. The question is asked, Are such occurrences possible, and if so, are they frequent? In England, I have seen quite a number of such cases; I have seen a haystack enveloped in flames, and yet they did not reach down to the stack within two or three feet. The gas generated in the stack did not become incandescent, (that perhaps, is a term not generally understood,) so we will say heated to a white heat. I have seen a bag of wool-waste so hot that it generated a gas which ignited spontaneously a distance from the sack, and while in flames I drew it out the flames, and the bag was not charred. I knew of a factory being burned down by a barrel of wool-waste being left in a room. The watchman smelt the gas, and looking round the room, found the barrel, and found it quite hot; he thought he would shake up the waste and let it cool, but instead of cooling it burst into a flame, and soon the room was in flames, and before long the whole factory. If the watchman had jumped into the barrel and pressed it down he might have removed the barrel before it took fire, or possibly it might not have ignited at all, but when he shook it up, he increased the generation of gas, and also admitted the oxygen of the atmosphere, which, combining with the different elements of this gas, generated heat sufficient not only to ignite the gas, but to get the whole mill on fire. The gas generated in the wool-waste and in the haystack is nearly the same; also, the gas produced in the gas house from coal, and also in the kerosene lamp or the tallow candle. This gas is called carburetted hydrogen, being a compound of carbon and hydrogen, but varies to a great extent in its combination, some containing much more carbon than others. There is a gas of this description generated in swamps, which ignites spontaneously, and burns with a pale, lambent flame. This was formerly called Will o' the wisp, or Jack with the lantern, and superstition said it was an evil spirit, whose object was to lure mortals into the swamp, because, whenever an attempt was made to reach it, it would recede before the person approaching till it reached the hard ground, when it would disappear, and leave the person in total darkness in the swamp. This never makes its appearance but on a very still night, and when a person was approaching it, he would force the air in the direction of the flame, causing it to recede as he advanced, till it reached ground which did not generate the gas, when it died out for want of fuel. Goldsmith refers to this in his Hermit, when he says:—

"Forbear, my son, the hermit cries,
To tempt the dangerous gloom,
For yonder phantom only flies
To lure thee to thy doom."

Now, all this seems to be in direct opposition to the idea of not over-drying hay, and seems to be in direct confliction with many experiments lately made of cutting grass and clover when the dew was off, and putting it into the barn the same day. In those cases the top and sides turned black, but the centre of the mow was as fresh and sweet as when first put in. I put into the mow, last summer, some Hungarian and clover rowen; the man came to me and said it was very hot, and suggested the idea of taking it out and drying it. I said, we will do better than that, we will put a couple of loads on to it, which we did, crowding it down as close as possible. I had two or three boys and two or three men treading it down as close as possible. The next day I found that was as hot as the other, but I had more out and put on two or three loads more, dealing with it in the same way, till the hay was all in and the mow full. I took three loads of this off on Saturday last, and found it perfectly sweet and fresh; the bloom was on the Hungarian the same as when put into the barn—the top and sides not black, but fresh. I am now feeding it, and it has increased the flow of milk several quarts per day. Now, from hay in this condition, I do not fear combustion, but the danger comes when the hay is about dry, and a shower of rain comes on it, for, if this water is not properly dried off, when put in the stack or mow, fermentation will be likely to ensue, and an inflammable gas be generated, which, if the mow is a large one, will be sufficient to spontaneously ignite. Some persons, if they get in hay which they consider a little too green, will throw it lightly on to the mow, as they suppose, to allow the air to pass through it and dry it. It is the air passing through it which causes it to ignite; the greener it is, the more you must press it down. If you can entirely exclude the air, it matters not how green it may be, it will keep, and when it is green it packs down so much more closely that it is much easier to exclude the air than when dry and brittle; but should any one be caught in a shower with dry hay he should be sure and have that water dried out before putting it on the mow.

I have seen a great many stacks of hay taken down, in England, which never burst into a flame, but the centres were charred black, like charcoal. I have been in this country over thirty years, and this case at Amherst is the first of the spontaneous combustion of a haystack which has come to my knowledge. I was not in England nearly as long as I have been here, and yet I know of a great many such cases. There they think themselves very fortunate if they get in a few loads without having rain on it. I have known hay in the field for nearly three weeks before it could be got into the barn. It would be perfectly safe for a person to say that it cost double the sum for a person to put his hay into the barn in England that it costs here, and requires double the care to secure it properly. THOS. WHITAKER.

Hillside Farm, Dec. 31, 1878.

Selections.

A WONDERFUL STABLE.

The Foremost Collection of Trotting Horses in the World.

The greatest collection of road horses in the world belongs to Mr. Robert Bonner. There are now in his stable, West Fifty-fifth street, near Fifth avenue, ten horses, every one of which, with a single exception, has trotted in 2:20 or better. The exception is Mamie B., by Edward Everett, dam St. Lawrence Maid, one of a pair driven several years by Commodore Vanderbilt. She is a diminutive specimen of horseflesh, standing but 14.1. Unquestionably she is the fastest trotter in the world of her size. She has pulled a wagon a

New England Farmer.

BOSTON:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1879.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements, 1st insertion, 12 cts. per line.
Each subsequent insertion, 8 " " "
Business Notices, first " 15 " " "
Each subsequent " 12 " " "
Reading Matter Notices, . . 50 " " "

Advertisements must be sent in as early in the week as Tuesday, to secure insertion.

Advertisers are charged for the space occupied in solid nonpareil measure.

Transient advertising must be prepaid.

Cuts inserted without extra charge.

No advertisement inserted for less than one dollar.

Special terms for Prisbrey and Farm Advertising.

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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Foreign advices continue of importance. In Great Britain another heavy bank failure is reported. The Oldham strike has ended in the submission of the operatives who suffer a heavy loss of wages. Gen. Grant has been warmly welcomed at Dublin, and refused reception at Cork. One of the heavy guns on the ironclad Thunderer has exploded causing a sad loss of life. There were upward of fifteen thousand business failures in Great Britain and Ireland last year,—an increase of four thousand over the preceding year. More labor troubles are threatened in England. The Republicans obtained a great victory in the Senatorial elections in France, Sunday. The general result shows the election of 64 Republicans to 15 Conservatives. The former will have a majority of about 57. Moncasi, the would-be assassin of King Alphonso of Spain, was executed at Madrid on Saturday morning. Don Espartero, the Spanish statesman, has had an attack of apoplexy, and is now at the point of death. A plague has broken out among the Cossacks of Astrachan, and is proving very fatal. France sent its ultimatum to the Bey of Tunis on Saturday last, and it is expected an adjustment of the imbroglio will be settled by diplomacy. The Montenegrins propose to take forcible possession of Podgoritza. The Afghanistan news does not confirm previous reports. The Viceroy of India telegraphs to the British government that the Ameer of Afghanistan has gone to St. Petersburg. The Governor of Khosit has submitted to the English forces under Gen. Roberts. Advices from Jellalabad state that Yakoob Khan is preparing for flight, and from the southern column it is learned that the invaders are within three days' march of Candahar. The British commissariat and transportation department are reported in confusion.

Later advices show that the labor troubles are spreading in Great Britain. The number of Republicans chosen to the French Senate is increased by later returns. France has given notice of the termination of commercial treaties. The Russian evacuation of the Dobrudscha will begin on Sunday next by order of Gen. Todleben. Other items of interest will be found in our summary.

Mexican advices state that Mexico will shortly enter the postal union. The installment due the United States is being sent forward. Ex-Gov. Bravo was killed while leading an insurrection.

The Massachusetts Legislature assembled Jan. 1, and Gov. Talbot was duly inaugurated on the 3d. The committees of the two branches have been appointed, including one on retrenchment, which is to be made a feature of this session, and the Legislature is now in working order, with an evident disposition to make a short session.

Congress reassembled on Tuesday. Considerable new business was introduced, and the Geneva award bill was discussed at some length.

The Maine Legislature assembled on the 1st. Alonzo Garcelon, Dem., was elected Governor by the Senate, his name and Jos. L. Smith's having been sent up by the House. The Democrats and Greenbackers have combined and divided the State offices between the two parties.

We have had some very cold weather since our last, but the lowest temperature was at the West and South—Chicago, on the 3d, recorded 22° below zero, and St. Louis 4° below. At New Orleans the mercury went to 2° above, an almost unheard of cold for that region. We had about four inches of snow in this vicinity on the 2d and 3d inst., which was badly drifted, but enough was left on the roads to make fair sleighing in the neighboring towns. Western New York has been suffering from a renewal of the snow blockade, and the trains are not yet running regularly. Wednesday opens with milder temperature, and indications of snow.

MUNICIPAL DEBTS.

On Monday, the new municipal governments of the cities in this State were inaugurated. From the addresses of the new Mayors it appears that the aggregate net debts of eighteen cities, excepting Boston, and deducting water debts, amount to rather more than seventeen million dollars. The net debt of Boston, exclusive of water debt, is $13,192,797, of which $3,797,800 mature and will be paid this year. New loans for sewer improvements, &c., have been authorized amounting to $4,086,000. The other cities report net debts as follows:—

	1879.	1878.	Decrease.
Cambridge	$2,494,553	$2,761,218	$266,665
Chelsea	1,565,273	1,591,252	25,979
Fall River	1,562,435	Not reported.	"Small."
Fitchburg	357,179	"	"
Gloucester	148,582	158,100	9,519
Haverhill	297,931	350,000	52,069
Holyoke	842,268	854,538	12,270
Lawrence	423,717	Not reported.	"
Lowell	503,500	511,000	7,500
Lynn	797,424	827,139	29,715
New Bedford	423,000	Not reported.	"
Newburyport	399,323	404,991	5,668
Newton	304,639	323,748	19,109
Salem	1,096,938	1,178,825	81,887
Somerville	1,392,432	1,460,287	67,855
Springfield	1,927,734	1,770,273	*157,461
Taunton	233,888	235,320	1,432
Worcester	2,343,621	2,288,861	*54,760

*Increase.

The general tone of the messages shows a disposition to encourage economy, and in but one or two cities is there any new important public work recommended. A few years of this economy will tell most favorably upon the tax rates.

THE GLOUCESTER FISHERIES.—During the year 1878, upwards of 13,000,000 pounds of codfish and 11,000,000 pounds of halibut from the banks, and 23,000,000 pounds of codfish from Georges, were landed at Gloucester. The effect of the depression in the fishery industry is shown by the fact that during the past year only twelve new vessels were added to the Gloucester fleet, and of these five were boats for small fishing crafts of twenty tons and less, the total tonnage of the twelve being 400 tons. In 1877 the additions numbered thirty-two, aggregating 2456 tons; in 1876, seven new vessels of 1925 tons were added to the fleet. The tonnage of the district of Gloucester was decreased last year by the loss of 11 vessels, 782 tons, and the sale to foreigners of 9 vessels, 589 tons. Two schooners and three boats of a total of 400 tons were purchased and brought into the district during the year.

MASS. POULTRY ASSOCIATION.—This association will hold its sixth annual exhibition at Horticultural Hall in this city, opening on Wednesday, Jan. 15, and continuing till the 22d. The premium list shows that a large sum is offered in the different varieties of fancy poultry, rabbits, pigeons, &c., with many special prizes worth contending for. The prospect is encouraging for a good display. The premium list and regulations can be obtained of Jas. F. Mooar, Secretary, at Horticultural Hall.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.—At East Attleboro', on Sunday, Gardner Tingley murdered his wife by cutting her throat, and then attempted his own life in the same manner, inflicting injuries from which he died Sunday evening. Tingley was a jeweller by trade, and is thought to have been insane by financial troubles, his wages having been trusted.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

On Thursday, Jan. 2, Hon. Thos. Talbot was inaugurated as Governor of this State and delivered his message to the Legislature, a brief abstract only of which we are able to give. The message is an able document, and specially noteworthy in the persistency with which the Governor advocates and urges economy and retrenchment in all public expenditures, even to the extent of recommending a reduction of his own official salary. He says:

So far as the actual power and the rightful influence of the chief executive can reach, within the bounds of official courtesy and constitutional prerogative, I shall conform my future policy to the methods of economy I have advocated in the past. I shall insist that faith be kept with the people; that they shall not be mocked with a delusive show of retrenchment; and that all needed reduction shall be effected in every branch of the public service, so far as it can be done without crippling its efficiency or adding to the sum of human suffering.

The following statement shows the present funded debt, with its appropriate classification:

Amount outstanding Jan. 1, 1878	$33,220,464
Matured and paid during the year, Union Fund loan of 1852	200,000
Total funded debt Jan. 1, 1879	$33,020,464
Classification.	
Railroad loans	$17,738,996
War loans	10,468,188
Loans for public buildings, &c	4,813,280
	$33,020,464

The estimates for the current year are as follows:

Payments from revenue, ordinary and exceptional, including taxes returnable	$4,240,250
Ordinary revenue, cash on hand	3,917,643
Leaving an apparent deficit, to be provided for by taxation, of	$323,643

The Governor urges retrenchment. He says:—The decrease of the State debt the past year has been small; but the arrangement for its prospective diminution and final extinguishment are judicious and will impose no perceptible burden on the people. The State tax has fallen from $2,000,000 in 1870 to $1,000,000 in 1878, with such a prospect of decrease that its continuance is virtually in your hands. The net reduction of expenses, ordinary and exceptional, for the past year, will be nearly $200,000, or five per cent. on the whole amount. The gross expenditure for 1878 was, in round numbers, $4,000,000. Before examining separately each branch of expenditure, I invite careful scrutiny of the expenses of the Governor and Council, which were $25,700 for 1878, a reduction of $6000 from the preceding year. It seems to be conceded that, under the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature cannot reduce the salary of a chief magistrate while in office, but may establish in advance that of his successor. I desire to remove all embarrassment on this point, by suggesting that this salary should be made to conform to the standard existing before the war, and by stating that the present Executive will content himself with the sum you may deem "honorable" and "sufficient" for his successor.

Gov. Talbot discusses the subject of charities at considerable length, and recommends the abolition of the Board of State Charities, with all its bureaus, and of the Board of Health, and the creation in place thereof of a State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, which shall possess all the powers and perform all the functions of the discontinued boards, with such added duties as the Legislature may designate. Included among these, he says, should be the special oversight of lunatics, both in regard to their treatment and the legality and propriety of their detention. He also recommends the complete abolition of the whole pauper system, which he deems neither advantageous nor desirable.

The managers' report of the Troy & Greenfield Railroad shows a considerable increase in its business and receipts for the year ending Sept. 30, 1878. It appears that the total earnings, under the existing pro rata arrangements, were $301,662 72, of which 33⅓ per cent., or $100,554 24, were deducted by the connecting roads for operating expenses, leaving $201,108 48 as gross income to the State. From this, the further sum of $80,428 34 was paid for repairs, wages, salaries, and other expenses, leaving $120,680 14, or 40 per cent., of gross earnings, to be paid into the Treasury as net income for the year. The amount of freight transported was about double that of the previous year, but the extremely low rates obtained, and the somewhat onerous conditions of the contract with connecting roads, have prevented a proportionate increase of income. It is not probable that even a large increase of business will bring any considerable income into the Treasury of the Commonwealth at present; for, though the tunnel was declared completed by order of the Executive Council, June 30, 1876, much and expensive work is needed, according to the reports of its engineers, to make it in all respects fit and safe for the transaction of the business which we may reasonably expect will soon be offered.

The discussion of temperance for two centuries has, the Governor says, resulted in merely restrictive laws. In this and other States dissatisfied citizens have sought a remedy in prohibition. This I deem a step in the right direction. I have heretofore officially expressed my opinions thereon, and still maintain them. Disdaining evasion or concealment, I add my deliberate judgment that any permanent advance must be secured by prohibitory enactments. He recommends that the question of biennial State elections, with a legislative session in alternate years, be referred to the judgment of the people; that the session be limited to 100 days each, and that it be made incompetent by the Constitution for any Legislature to fix its own pay.

It has been long since we have seen a message so crowded with recommendations of a practical character, and if they are followed up by practical legislation it can but result in a marked reduction of the cost of State government.

CALEB CUSHING.

Gen. Caleb Cushing, long distinguished as a jurist and diplomat, died at his home in Newburyport on the 3d inst. He was the son of Captain John N. Cushing, an eminent ship owner of Salisbury, Mass., and was born at that place January 7, 1800. He was fitted for college at the public school and graduated at Harvard College at the early age of seventeen, with the honors of the salutatory oration. In 1822 he began to practice law at Newburyport, and in 1825 he was elected a member of the Massachusetts house of representatives, and the next year to the State Senate.

After a few years of literary work and foreign travel he was again sent to the Legislature for two years in 1833-34, and from 1835 to 1843 he represented the Essex district in Congress. In 1843, after the United States Senate had rejected President Tyler's nomination of Mr. Cushing as Secretary of the Treasury, he went to China and negotiated the first treaty made between the United States and China. On his return Newburyport sent him to the Legislature again, and he supplemented earnest advocacy of the Mexican war in legislative debates by furnishing the means to equip the Massachusetts regiment, and went out as its colonel. While in Mexico, the democrats in this State nominated him for Governor, but failed to elect him. In 1850, Newburyport sent him to the Legislature for the sixth time, and in that year he was elected the first mayor of that city, and was re-elected the next year. In 1852, he was appointed judge of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, but resigned the next year to take the place of Attorney General in President Pierce's cabinet. He held that place for four years, and then served three more terms in the Massachusetts Legislature. In 1860, he presided over the national democratic convention at Charleston, S. C., and two months later presided over the seceders from Charleston who met at Baltimore and nominated John C. Breckenridge for President. President Buchanan sent Mr. Cushing to Charleston in December, 1860, as a confidential commissioner to the secessionists, but his mission was fruitless.

During the civil war, Mr. Cushing held no official position, but was identified with the Union side. In 1866, he was appointed to aid in revising and codifying the United States laws, and in 1872 he was one of the counsel for the United States at the Geneva conference for the settlement of the Alabama claims. In 1873, he was appointed United States minister to Spain, which position he held until a short time ago, when James Russell Lowell succeeded him. President Grant nominated Mr. Cushing for Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1874, but soon after withdrew it. In the late State campaign the Butler democrats nominated Mr. Cushing for Attorney General, but he declined before the election.

BROOKLYN ELEVATED RAILROAD.—It is proposed to build elevated railroads in Brooklyn similar to those in New York, and singularly enough the capital will be largely furnished by Boston capitalists. On the 3d, Willard T. Sears of Boston was elected treasurer of the Brooklyn Elevated Railroad Company, and the following were elected directors: Hiram G. Bond and J. Eugene Baum of Brooklyn, Moses Kimball of Boston, Nathaniel S. Simpkins, Jr., of New York, John Wooldredge of Lynn, Mass., Joseph E. Gay of New York, James H. Frothingham of Brooklyn, Willard T. Sears of Boston and Appleton D. Palmer of Orange, N. J.

RAILROAD LEASE.—The Old Colony Railroad has leased the Boston, Clinton, Fitchburg & New Bedford Railroad for ninety-nine years. It is said that the Old Colony is to pay one-third of 32 per cent. of the gross earnings of both roads.

WE BELIEVE that if every one would use Hop Bitters freely, there would be much less sickness and misery in the world; and people are fast finding this out, whole families keeping well at a trifling cost by its use. We advise all to try it.—*U. & A. Rochester, N. Y.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

The public library building in Hingham was totally destroyed by fire on Friday night, 3d. The building was a two-story wooden structure, presented to the town about ten years ago by the late Hon. Albert Fearing, and cost about $15,000. The ground floor was occupied in part by the post office, the contents of which were burned. The library contained 15,000 volumes and many works of art and curiosities, all of which were destroyed. It is thought that the fire must have originated either from a defective flue or from the overheating of the furnace. There was insurance of $21,500 on building, books and fixtures.

At Portland, Me., Jan. 2, fire destroyed the stores occupied by Bibber, Morrill & McMann and John F. Rand, both dealers in millinery and fancy goods. The first firm loses $10,000, insured $8500; Rand loses about $20,000, insured $17,000. Another fire early on the morning of the 3d, destroyed Fling's wool factory on Grove street and four tenement houses, turning several families into the street. The wool factory was valued at $5000, not insured. The tenements were valued at $6000, insured for $3000.

The Academy of the Holy Angels (Roman Catholic) at Buffalo, N. Y., was burned on Saturday afternoon. The children were all removed in safety. Loss, $65,000

In Chicago on Saturday night a fire broke out in the large block at the corner of Dearborn and Adams streets, known as the Honore block. The flames originated in a carpenter shop in the basement, and swept up the hatchway to the roof in a few minutes, driving out the tenants from all the floors. The basement was occupied by the post office, the first and second floors by the post office and the Alton Railroad Company, the third floor by General Sheridan's headquarters, the fourth floor by military offices and lawyers, and the fifth floor by the heavy mail department. The building was damaged over $100,000. General Sheridan lost some papers, and the post office loses $15,000 worth of stamped letters. The damage was confined to the upper stories. The total individual losses are estimated at $10,000 to $25,000.

At Charleston, S. C., Jan. 1, the large cotton press and warehouses of the Union Cotton Press Company were destroyed by an incendiary fire, together with 10,121 bales of cotton. The buildings and presses were valued at $100,000; insured for $60,000. The loss on the cotton is estimated at $475,000 with an insurance of $472,250.

At St. Louis, Mo., 3d, the Second Baptist Church, a new and imposing structure, was burnt. Loss $100,000—insured.

At Columbus, Ga., 3d, the Rankin House, the principal hotel, with several stores underneath, was burnt. Loss $70,000 — insured $22,000. Another fire, two blocks above, burnt three stores—loss, $17,300.

At Elgin, Ill., 2d, a destructive fire swept the south side of Chicago St.,—loss $100,000, insured for $75,000.

Numerous smaller fires are reported, including a flouring mill at Rockdale, Iowa, $25,000; hotel and adjoining buildings at Huntington, W. Va., $12,000; stores and tenements at Cleveland, O., $17,000; Dempster Hall, part of Evanston, Ill., University, $25,000; First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, Ill., new, $60,000—insured $20,000.

The Westmoreland Co., Pa., poor house was burnt Jan. 1. The inmates were all rescued. Loss $65,000—insured $28,500.

INCONVENIENCE OF CHEAP MONEY.—Now, says the *Journal*, that the currency of the United States has become better and more desirable than that of Canada, the border towns along New Brunswick and elsewhere have considerable amounts of Canadian money just as before the war. The Canadian banks are upon a gold basis, but there is some fear of them, and their bills are not current in this city or Portland. Nevertheless, in those border towns where there are no National banks, on the principle that the poorer money drives out the better, New Brunswick currency and bills issued by a private banking concern in St. Stephen, N. B., called the "Chipman Money," now constitute quite a portion of the circulating medium, since all merchants and others having payments to make in Boston and elsewhere collect and send away the current money. This is already a source not only of serious inconvenience but of loss to many. They experience with the New Brunswick bank currency the same loss and inconvenience which everybody in remote towns doing business or travelling experienced under the old State bank system.

NETTING COD.—A REVOLUTION IN FISHING.—We see it stated that the Norwegian nets introduced by the United States Fish Commission at Gloucester not having proved successful, possibly from having too small meshes, Prof. Baird had made certain modifications, adopting the lake gill-nets, with meshes 10 and 12 inch extension measurement, made of rather fine twine. At the first trial with the improved net over 1000 pounds of cod were landed. This is the first capture of cod made with nets as far as is known on the coast of North America. Fishermen are, of course, very much interested, and have expressed their intention of having gangs of nets. There is no doubt that American ingenuity will very much improve on the Norwegian processes. In certain localities, by netting the fish, much larger hauls can be made, and the slower and more dangerous process of trawling be done away with.

THE CASE OF THE GLOUCESTER FISHERMEN.—A Washington special says the Secretary of State is in communication with counsel for the fishermen of Gloucester, Mass., who suffered outrages at Fortune Bay in Newfoundland last year, and will make up a statement of their losses, which will be presented to the British Government as a claim for compensation. Our Government will press this claim, and no further negotiations on the main question of the value of the fisheries will occur until this matter is disposed of.

HICCOUGHS.—A newspaper item reports that Marcellus Fenno of St. Johnsbury, Vt., was attacked with hiccoughs recently, and the doctor could not stop them for two days. We have known a stubborn case, similar to the above, cured by placing on the tongue a small piece of tobacco. Of course, in the case of a tobacco user, this would not have the desired effect.

PURE WOOLENS.—MACULLAR, WILLIAMS & PARKER occupy a certain position in the woolen trade, from which they will not recede. They undertake to say that under no circumstances will they sell goods that are not true to the name set forth on the label attached, or that are adulterated, or that can in any manner be classified as fraudulent mixtures. Thus they make the assurance of all-wool fabrics with absolute certainty. Less than this they cannot do. Less than this they have never done. They have always broadly maintained the proposition that every customer has a right to know just what he is buying. Little, Brown & Co.'s imprint upon the title-page of a volume of law reports is a sufficient guaranty of the book in any Court, and Macullar, Williams & Parker's statements, in like manner, carry their own confirmation with them. So much for sustaining an honorable business reputation for nearly thirty years. All through the darkest days of trade depression they held on without concession to the demand for low prices at any sacrifice of quality and appearance, and now, when we may not unreasonably expect that the tide is about to turn in favor of the better elements in business circles, their store will doubtless attract a still larger proportion of appreciative buyers of the best clothing from all parts of New England.

THE UPRIGHT PIANO is surely supplanting the square in this country. The tone is considered superior by most musicians, and when strongly made, so that it will remain well in tune, it is superior in all other respects. Mr. Geo. Woods, the ingenious Organ builder, of Cambridge, Mass., who was formerly a piano maker, has patented a new frame for the upright, which secures for it a great degree of strength and solidity, and at the same time improves the quality of tone. It is claimed that the Pianos made on this principle will remain in tune longer than the squares, and the improvement is attracting much attention among musicians.

☞ Frozen herring are very plenty at Eastport, Me. Some two thousand barrels were shipped per steamers last week, and several vessels are loaded in the harbor. The price is 10 cents per 100, the lowest ever known. Fishermen cannot meet their bills.

RAILROAD BUILDING IN 1878.—Statistics of railroad construction in 1878 show that 2688 miles of railroad were built during last year. In 1877, 2281 miles were constructed; 1876, 2460 miles; 1875, 1561 miles. The year before the panic 7340 miles were built. In the New England States 41 miles were completed the past year against 119 in 1877 and 50 in 1876. The chief increase during the year in the number of miles built was in the North-western States and Territories, the number of miles being 1235 in 1878 against 678 the year previous. The roads built in New England the past year are as follows: Manchester & Keene 17 miles, Peterboro' & Hillsboro' 18 miles, both in New Hampshire; Holyoke & Westfield 4 miles, Spencer 2 miles.

BOSTON MUSEUM.—The amusing and entertaining "*H. M. S. Pinafore,*" now in its seventh week will soon receive its last representations, so that few who have not yet seen it have no time to lose in securing their seats. It is followed, at each performance, by the "*Trial by Jury,*" a lively musical piece which is capitally performed. On Saturday evening, Miss Rose Temple has a benefit, on which occasion "*A Cup of Tea,*" will be taken by Messrs. Warren and Crisp, Miss Clarke and others of the company, in addition to the regular performance. The engagement of Mr. L. P. Barrett begins Jan. 20, and during its continuance the musical members of the company will navigate "*H. M. S. Pinafore*" into some of the leading cities and towns of New England. The craft will repay an evening's visit, in whatever port she may cast anchor.

LOVERING'S MILLION DOLLAR BOOK SALE AND FREE GIFT SCHEME.—In directing the attention of our country readers to the announcement and catalogue of this magnificent scheme which appears in our advertising columns, we would remark that special arrangements have been made with the postal authorities whereby the *books* ordered, and the valuable gifts accompanying them, may be transmitted with promptitude and safety to the parties ordering the same, even to the remotest cities and towns in the Union. Since its establishment, six months since, 5000 amethyst and 1000 diamond rings, 250 gold watches, 500 silver watches, 150 opera glasses, and thousands of other valuable gifts have been distributed exclusively among country residents. The only precaution requisite is that subscribers should write their names and addresses *plainly* and transmit *One Dollar* and ten cents for every book so ordered. The order and gifts will be as faithfully and promptly transmitted as if the person was present. —*American Cultivator.*

Political Intelligence.

XLV. CONGRESS.---Second Session.

Congress reassembled, after the holiday intermission, on Tuesday. In the Senate, a bill was introduced providing for the local taxation of legal-tender notes by including them in the valuation of personal property assessed for taxation, such tax, however, not to exceed the rate assessed on gold and silver coin. A bill was also introduced providing for the interchange of subsidiary silver coin for legal-tender notes. Mr. Voorhees spoke at length in advocacy of his resolution for making the trade dollar a legal tender and providing for its recoinage into standard silver dollars, and the bill to amend the patent laws was discussed. The House declined to investigate the charges against Mr. Acklin of Louisiana, directed an investigation of the charges against Judge Blodgett of Illinois, and discussed the Geneva award bill until the hour of adjournment.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

The Massachusetts Legislature assembled Jan. 1. There was a full attendance in both branches. The Senate organized by the choice of John B. D. Cogswell, President, and Stephen N. Gifford, Clerk. This was Mr. G's twenty-second election to this office. In the House, Levi C. Wade, of Newton, was chosen Speaker, and George A. Marden, Clerk. Oreb F. Mitchell was chosen Sergeant at Arms. The election sermon was preached at the new Old South, by Rev. Alex. McKenzie of Cambridge.

Both branches of the Legislature met at eleven o'clock Thursday, but as the sessions were broken up by the conventions to qualify the State officers and the reading of the Governor's message, but little routine business was done. Rev. Isaac Dunham, of Bridgewater, was chosen Chaplain of the Senate, and Rev. D. C. Waldron, of Boston, Chaplain of the House.

The House met at eleven o'clock Friday; adopted the report of the committee making the first Wednesday in February the limit of the introduction of all new business; adopted a resolution of respect to the memory of the late Caleb Cushing, and adjourned to Monday afternoon. The Senate met at two; concurred in the above reports of the House; received a bill making the annual pay of members three hundred dollars; ordered fifteen hundred copies of the Governor's message to be printed, and adjourned to Monday.

On Monday, there was little business transacted beyond the appointment of committees. President Cogswell and Speaker Wade announced to their respective branches the standing committees of each and the joint standing and joint special committees of both. Among the matters introduced in the House were several petitions for recount of votes, or notice of contest of seat, an order to consider the expediency of a convention of delegates from the people for the revision of the constitution, and orders to consider the expediency of reducing the poll tax to one dollar and of abolishing it as a suffrage qualification. A communication was received from the council that no alterations on the State House should be made at present. A special committee on retrenchment was appointed, with Senator Bishop, of Middlesex, and Representative Brackett, of Boston, as chairmen.

In recent years there has not been introduced so large an amount of business on the day after the formation of the committees as was introduced Tuesday. Several petitions and many orders were presented in the House, and in the Senate there was on unusual quantity of new matter. In the House, Mr. O'Neil of Boston presented a bill on leave which he hopes will do away with the strange and complicated devices for election ballots which have become so common, and will compel the use of uniform plain white paper ballots. A petition was presented for the protection of wives. It prays that, in case of aggravated assault upon a wife by her husband, she may desert him, be free from his visits, except once a year, have the custody of her minor children, and be otherwise loosed from a disagreeable burden. A repeal of the pool law is wanted so far as relates to trials of skill or endurance by man, beast, bird, or machine, and there will be another effort to do away with the double taxation of mortgaged property. A petition was presented for authority to buy and run the Billerica & Bedford Railroad, and an order was adopted looking to a revision of the General Statutes. A bill was introduced providing for the punishment of tramps. A petition was presented from sixty-seven farmers' clubs that receive no State aid, for an act authorizing the State Board of Agriculture and the State Treasurer to withhold the bounty appropriations from agricultural societies which did not comply with the instructions of the Board last year.

MAINE LEGISLATURE.

This body assembled on Wednesday, Jan. 1. The Senate was organized as follows:—President, J. Manchester Haynes, Rep., of Kennebec; Secretary, Samuel W. Lane, Rep., of Augusta. The House organized by the choice of M. P. Frank of Portland, Dem., as Speaker, Benj. L. Staples of Houlton, Dem., as Clerk. The Senate adopted resolves rejoicing at the resumption of specie payments, and varying its maintenance, but the House, 80 to 66, voted to table the resolves. A resolve was presented in favor of biennial elections.

On Friday, the committee on Gubernatorial votes reported as follows: Whole number of votes 126,554; necessary to a choice, 63,085; Seldon Connor, 56,554; Alonzo Garcelon, 28,208; Joseph L. Smith, 41,371; Frederick Robie, 17; scattering, 17. The committee declared that there was no choice by the people, and that Selden Connor, Alonzo Garcelon, Joseph L. Smith and Frederick Robie are the constitutional candidates for Governor of Maine. The House voted to send to the Senate, for choice, the names of Garcelon and Smith. The Senate, by a vote of 21 to 10 chose Alonzo Garcelon, Governor for the current year. In joint convention, the following State officers were chosen:—Secretary of State, Edward H. Gove, Greenbacker, of Biddeford; State Treasurer, Chas. A. White, Dem., of Gardiner; Attorney General, Wm. A. McLellan, Dem., of Belfast; Adjutant General, Samuel D. Leavitt; Executive Councilors, Edward C. Moody of York, Charles H. Chase of Portland, Frank M. Fogg of Auburn, Simons Brown of Fairfield, Halsey H. Monroe of Thomaston, John B. Foster of Bangor, Frederick G. Parker of Presque Isle. Four of the Council are Greenbackers, the rest Democrats. The Senate adopted an order appointing a committee "to examine into the civil service of the State; see what offices may be abolished, and what reduction may be made in the salaries to correspond with the times." An order was passed limiting the reception of petitions to January 21. Both branches adjourned to Tuesday afternoon, 7th.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

Samuel J. Tilden has addressed a letter to Clarkson Potter, asking that he be summoned before the Potter Committee, so that he may clear up all charges that have been made against him of being an accomplice in the alleged cipher dispatch frauds. This request will, of course, be granted.

It is reported that the President and Cabinet will hold that California has no right to enact laws which will practically interfere with the United States treaty with China. It is the same ground that they hold respecting the fisheries treaty, viz., that the local government of Newfoundland cannot impose restrictions upon American fishermen which will deprive them of their treaty rights.

The President has nominated James B. Howell, Orange Ferris and Asa O. Aldis to be Commissioners to settle Southern claims; Thomas L. Nelson to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts; and Gen. J. B. Longstreet to be Postmaster at Gainesville, Ga.

The New York State Senate met in the new capitol building for the first time Tuesday. The Democratic caucus of the Assembly nominated Erastus Brooks as their candidate for Speaker. The Assembly was escorted from the old to the new Capitol building by the Senate. On calling the roll the Assembly had a quorum, although 17 members are absent in the snow blockade.

In a case of the alleged fraudulent naturalization papers issued by the Superior Court in New York city during Tweed's rule, where Commissioner Davenport arrested a man claiming to vote on the same, Judge Blatchford of the U. S. Circuit Court decides that any omission on the part of the officers of the court making the papers does not affect the holder, as no fraud on his part has been proven. This decision is against Davenport, but he claims that it does not affect the merits of many other cases. There are said to be many thousands of these fraudently issued papers.

It is stated that the Comptroller's report of the finances of New York State shows them to be in excellent condition, the total debt being but $9,000,000. The statement of the Comptroller of New York city shows the debt to be $113,418,403.

The new minister from Spain to the United States, Senor Vigo, is expected here in a few days. He has occupied many responsible and distinguished positions in his own country. In politics he belongs to the Alphonsists. He has served in the Cortes, and when appointed minister to the United States was serving in a prominent place in the royal household.

The President has received the resolution of the Teller Committee requesting him to furnish the committee with all information in his possession relative to violation of the rights of citizens in the States named in his annual message. As the official information on which he predicated his remarks came through the Attorney General, the President has sent the resolution to that officer for a response.

The newly-elected officials of New York and Brooklyn took possession of their offices Jan. 1. Among them was Gen. Wm. G. Steinmetz, elected Comptroller of Brooklyn, who begins his official career by an initial saving in expenses of several thousand dollars per year.

An Ottawa dispatch says a petition will be presented to the Dominion Parliament to prohibit by law the employment of Chinese upon the public works of British Columbia, and also to prevent Chinese immigration into Canada.

A New Orleans dispatch of the 3d says:—Some twenty persons sent by Commissioner Lane before the United States Circuit Court, charged with frauds in the recent election, appeared before Judge Billings to-day, and were bailed in $1000 each. Fifteen persons who were arrested in Natchitoches parish by a Deputy United States Marshal were brought here to-day. These are parties against whom Hornsby gave evidence for running him out of the parish during the last campaign.

In the Virginia Senate, Monday, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Governor to request foreign bondholders or their authorized representatives, and all such creditors or their representatives as wish to participate, to meet the General Assembly on the 22d instant for a conference about a plan of settlement of the State debt. In the House the matter was made a continuous order, commencing Wednesday.

It is currently reported that the Marquis of Lorne has telegraphed to England for instructions as to the course he shall pursue in the matter of the dismissal of Lieutenant-Governor Letellier of the province of Quebec, and has received a reply that the representative of the crown must be sustained, as his course has been strictly constitutional.

The Dominion Parliament will meet February 13 for the despatch of business.

The Louisiana Legislature met on Monday. J. C. Moncure of Caddo was elected Speaker of the House. The Senate re-elected it sold officers. A bill was introduced authorizing the Governor to issue a million and a half new 5-20 bonds to restore the credit of the State, the bonds to be sold at par for cash or coupons due upon the present State consols. A bill will be introduced calling a Constitutional Convention.

The Markets.

BOSTON RETAIL PRICES.

Inside of Faneuil Hall Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8, 1879.

[Corrected weekly by HILTON & WOODWARD, No. 5, *Veal and Mutton;* GEO. H. RUSSELL, Nos., 17 & 19 *Poultry and Game;* H. BIRD & CO., Nos. 38 & 40, *Beef, Pork, Lard and Hams;* C. C. CHAMBERLIN & CO., Nos. 79 & 81, *Butter, Cheese and Eggs;* SANDS, FURBER & CO., Nos. 88 & 90, *Fruit and Vegetables;* SHATTUCK & JONES, No. 128, *Fish;* GEO. E. RICHARDSON & CO., No. 1, F. H. Square, *Fruit and Nuts.*]

Butter, Cheese and Eggs.

Butter, ₰ lb.—	Cheese, ₰ lb . . 12 @ 15
Lump . . . 30 @ 40	Sage, ₰ lb . . 14 @ 15
Prime . . . 25 @ 30	Neufchatel, ea @ 10
2d quality . 22 @ 25	Eggs, ₰ doz . . 28 @ 30
common, . . 18 @ 20	

Fruits and Berries.

Apples—	Malaga, ₰ lb . 20 @ 25
new, ₰ bbl . 1 00 @ 2 00	Lemons, ₰ doz 25 @ 30
Cocoanuts, ea . 6 @ 10	Oranges, ₰ doz 37 @ 50
Grapes—	Pears, pk . . . 50 @ 1 25
Hamburg, lb . . 8 @ 00	

Fruits and Nuts---Dry and Canned.

Almonds, ₰ lb . 25 @ 40	Pecans ₰ lb . . . @ 20
shelled, ₰ lb . 50 @ 60	Prunes, ₰ lb . . 15 @ 20
Apples, ₰ lb . . 8 @ 12	Peaches, ₰ lb . 20 @ 25
Chestnuts, ₰ bu 1 50 @ 2 00	₰ qt can . . . 50 @ 60
Chestnuts, qt . @ 30	Raisins, lay'rs ₰ lb 25 @ 33
Citron, ₰ lb . . 25 @ 38	keg, ₰ lb . . . 10 @ 15
Dates, ₰ lb . . . 10 @ 15	Shagbarks, ₰ qt 10 @ 15
Figs, ₰ lb . . . 10 @ 15	Walnts, English 13 @ 15
Filberts, ₰ qt . . @ 20	Naples, ... @ 20
Peanuts, ₰ lb . 10 @ 15	Zante cur'ts, ₰ lb0 @ 12

Vegetables.

Beans, ₰ pk . . 50 @ 75	₰ bushel . 1 00 @ 1 05
Beets, ₰ pk . . . @ 30	turnips, . . 2 75 @ 3 00
Cabbage, ea . 10 @ 15	sweet, ₰ lb . . . @ 4
Carrots, ₰ pk . . @ 25	Sage and Thyme—
Cauliflower, ea 15 @ 30	₰ bunch . . . @ 6
Celery, ₰ bch . 10 @ 35	Salsify, ₰ bch . . @ 10
Leeks, bch . . 6 @ 8	Spinach, ₰ pk . . @ 20
Lettuce ₰ head 6 @ 8	Squashes—
Onions, ₰ pk . . @ 35	Marrow, ₰ lb . . @ 2½
Parsnips, ₰ pk . @ 25	Hubbard, ₰ lb . @ 3
Peas, split, ₰ qt . @ 10	Turnips, ₰ pk . . @ 25
Potatoes, ₰ pk . . @ 35	

Meats---Fresh.

Beef, ₰ lb—	Lard, leaf, . . . 7 @ 8
Sirloin steak 23 @ 25	kettle . . . 7 @ 8
Round do. . . 14 @ 15	Mutton—
Rib, roast . . 10 @ 20	legs, ₰ lb . . . 14 @ 18
Chuck ₰ lb . . 7 @ 8	fore qr, ₰ lb . 8 @ 10
Plate and nvls 7 @ 8	chops . . . . 14 @ 18
Soup pieces . . 3 @ 4	Pork, ₰ lb—
Liver .

New England Farmer.

Vol. LVIII. Old Series. } 1879.
Vol. XXXIV. New Series. }

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General Intelligence.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Bishop Whittingham of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, who has been in feeble health for several years, is now seriously ill at Baltimore. His condition is regarded as critical, although his life is not despaired of. The Bishop is seventy-three years old.

It is reported that the wound received by Signor Cairoli, the Italian ex-prime Minister, at the hands of the would-be assassin of King Humbert, is festering, and he is about to undergo a dangerous operation.

Mr. David A. Wells is about to retire from the Presidency of the American Social Science Association. President Gilman of John Hopkins University is mentioned as his successor.

Richard M. Sherman has been appointed by the Governor of New York Commissioner of Fisheries, in place of Horatio Seymour, resigned.

Capt. Tom Lewis, the last survivor of the Lewis & Clark expedition that explored Louisiana Territory, was frozen to death in Albemarle county, Va., Friday night, 3d.

Prof. David Swing of Chicago is described as looking haggard and overworked. The Professor is said to receive $8000 a year as salary. No collection is taken up in church. All the expenses of the current year are provided for, and there is $8000 surplus in the treasury. A large hall, to cost $150,000, is to be built for Prof. Swing's use during the coming year.

Ex-Secretary of the Navy Borie sailed Jan. 2, from Philadelphia for Liverpool to accompany ex-President Grant on his trip around the world.

The Lee Monument Association, chartered by the Legislature of Virginia for the purpose of erecting in Richmond a monument to General Robert E. Lee, proposes to take up on his birthday—the 19th of January—a collection throughout the South in aid of its undertaking. It is suggested also that entertainments be given throughout the South on the night of the 19th for the same object. The association has a large sum on hand, but not enough to erect a fitting monument.

Gov. Hampton fully realized his danger a fortnight ago. It is said, indeed, that at one time he expressed himself as not only prepared for a fatal termination of his case, but as willing for it, and that not until he was induced by the concern for his family and by an affectionate regard for them, to oppose some degree of mental resistance to his disease, was there ever any sincere hope of his final recovery. He is now rapidly recovering.

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines has won another suit at New Orleans, which gives her possession of a large tract of land on the Mississippi river in Ascension parish, La.

Charles T. Sherman, a son of Charles R. Sherman, and a brother of John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, and Gen. William T. Sherman, died at Cleveland on the 1st inst. He was appointed United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio in 1875, and held that post at the time of his death. He was well known in legal circles and was highly esteemed in his native State.

Rev. George Herbert Hosmer was installed pastor of the East Church, Salem, Jan. 2d; his father, Rev. George W. Hosmer, D. D., of Newton, preached the sermon.

Hon. George W. Nesmith of Franklin, N. H., has been chosen Temporay President of the Northern Railway Company, vice Onslow Stearns, deceased.

The Hon. Morton McMichael, senior publisher of the Philadelphia *North American* ex-mayor of Philadelphia, and president of the park commission, died in that city Monday afternoon after a brief illness, of heart disease. The deceased was born October 20, 1807. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, studied law, and was admitted to practice at the Philadelphia bar in 1827. In 1847, Mr. McMichael became associated with George R. Graham, as editor and proprietors of the *North American and United States Gazette*. In 1857 he became sole proprietor of the paper, and continued so until he associated his sons with him in its publication.

Alex. H. Stephens had an attack of neuralgia of the bowels, Tuesday night, and is in a worse condition physically than for years. He is confined to his room.

THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER,

In his lecture on "The wastes and burdens of society," claims "man's *natural* life to be 80 years, and as the *average* life is but 33 years, there must be a waste of 47 years." There is much of truth in this statement. If a man be unfortunate in business, it is attributed to the violation of some *commercial* law. Now, if a person be taken off in the prime of life, ought it not to be attributed to the violation of some *physiological* law? If people only knew better, they would live better and longer; but how can they profit by that which they know not of? The only popular work that meets this great want is Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser. In it the great problems of disease and health are fully discussed. The work contains over 900 pages and 250 colored plates and wood-cuts. Price, $1.50 (post-paid.) Address the author, R. V. Pierce, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

CONSUMPTION CURED.—An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy, for the speedy and permanent cure for consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, with full directions for preparing and using, in German, French, or English. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. Sherar, 149 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

THROAT DISEASES often commence with a Cold, Cough, or unusual exertion of the voice. These incipient symptoms are allayed by the use of "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*," which if neglected often result in a chronic trouble of the throat. 25c. a box.

LADY BEAUTIFIERS.—Ladies, you cannot make fair skin, rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes with all the cosmetics of France, or beautifiers of the world, while in poor health, and nothing will give you such good health, strength and beauty as Hop Bitters. A trial is certain proof. See another column.

CREW JACKSON'S BEST Sweet Navy Tobacco.

The World Abroad.

CABLE DISPATCHES.

Great Britain.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The recent sudden thaw has caused numerous floods in England and Scotland. At Nottingham the flood is the greatest known for fifteen years; the country around Darlington and Lexington is flooded for miles, and much damage is reported at Berwick and Aberdeen.

The Oldham cotton strike has terminated. At a conference between the employers' and operatives' committee to-day the latter unconditionally accepted the proposed reduction, and it is expected that work will be fully resumed Monday. The loss in wages by the strike amounts to £60,000, besides the expenditure of the Union funds, and the loss to the capital, by stoppage, of 4,000,000 spindles. The Sun Mill, the largest limited company in Oldham, announces the loss of £22,000 during the last three months. This is the greatest loss ever sustained by any company since the cotton famine.

The *Standard's* Dublin correspondent says that the rumor has been revived that the Duke of Connaught will become Viceroy of Ireland, and the rumor seems to meet rather more credence than formerly.

Bullion in Bank of England increased $635,000 during the past week.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The business failures officially announced in the Kingdom (Great Britain and Ireland) during 1878, have been 15,069, of which 2643 were in financial and wholesale and manufacturing branches of trade, and 12,416 in the retail trades, professional pursuits, builders, publicans, working classes, &c., against 2172 and 8830 under the respective headings in 1877, showing an increase of 4037 failures last year over the preceding year.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The following telegram has been received from Admiral Hornby, commanding the British fleet in the Sea of Marmora:

"One of the thirty-eight-ton guns of the turret-ship Thunderer burst on the morning of January 2, killing Lieuts. Coker and Danicl, two petty officers, four seamen and a marine. The gun burst in front of the trunnions, the muzzle blowing overboard. The gun had just been fired with a battering charge, but when it burst it was loaded with a full charge and empty shell. A boatswain and 32 men were wounded, 12 very badly. The turret is disabled, but the ship otherwise uninjured."

MANCHESTER, Jan. 3.—The cotton masters at Huddersfield are considering the advisability of reducing wages in the same proportion as was adopted at Oldham.

A common understanding was reached yesterday by all the societies connected with the engineering trade to resist to the utmost any prolongation of the hours of labor. It is stated that the Cairds, the great ship-builders of Greenock, have virtually dropped their demand, to correspond with that of the London masters.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—A special to the *Telegram* from Dublin says: Ex-President Grant, who left London last night by the Dublin mail, via Holyhead and Kingston, arrived here this morning. His welcome was of the heartiest kind. The enthusiasm manifested was tremendous, and cheer after cheer rent the air as the General rode through the streets. Bunting was profusely displayed in all quarters. The reception by the corporation was of the most dignified but cordial description. After the Mayor's welcoming address, tendering his distinguished guest the freedom of the city, General Grant responded. He said that he felt very proud of being made a citizen of the principal city of Ireland. He was by birth a citizen of that country where there were more Irishmen, native born or by descent, than are to be found in all the length and breadth of this beautiful isle, of which poets have sung and which has produced some of the finest orators the world has ever heard. He had the honor when in office of representing more Irishmen and descendants of Irishmen than the Queen of England. In conclusion, Gen. Grant expressed heartfelt thanks for his generous reception.

Two hundred guests were present at the banquet given in honor of Gen. Grant this evening. The Lord Mayor presided. Gen. Noyes returned thanks for the toast to "President Hayes's health." Gen. Grant, in replying to the toast "to his health," commented upon the cordiality of the popular reception accorded him. He believed and hoped that the trade depression in America would soon be over. He said Americans strove to be honest and pay their way as they became prosperous; so also would England. His speech was much cheered.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—At a meeting of the Town Council of Cork yesterday, after several bitter speeches by Catholic members, a motion that the letter of the United States Consul at Queenstown announcing General Grant's coming be simply marked "read" was carried without a dissentiate vote. The previous motion, to give Gen. Grant a proper reception, was ignored.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The correspondent of the *Telegraph* from Truro, Cornwall, writes as follows: "There is great consternation here this morning in consequence of a notice posted on the doors of the Cornish Bank announcing that it was closed." The bank has had extensive dealings in mining and other commercial enterprises. The bank belongs to Tweedie, Williams & Co., and was established about 110 years ago. The bank has branches at Falmouth, Penryn and Pedruth. Sir Frederick Williams, member of Parliament for Truro, who died recently, held one-third of the concern, and his wife is sole executor. The bank had an authorized issue of £49,000.

The cause of the explosion on the turret ship Thunderer is still a mystery. The gun which exploded will be sent to Woolwich for examination. Several of the wounded have since died, and many others have become blind.

BARNSLEY, England, Jan. 6.—The South Yorkshire Colliery Operatives' Association has decided to submit to no reduction of wages. A largely attended meeting of a council of the North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire Associations also decided to-day to make no concession to the owners, and that the owners be required to withdraw their notice of a reduction of wages.

It is calculated that more than 1000 men, employed on railroad fight-train guards on the Midland Railway, are on a strike. The guards in Leeds district decided to-day to remain on duty. The signal men, whose wages were to be reduced Jan. 10, resolved to turn out if necessary.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Five hundred coach builders have struck in Liverpool against the increase of hours from 53 to 56½ per week. Simultaneously with this movement strikes occurred in many large towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Five hundred shipwrights employed in the Middleboro' shipyard struck to-day against a reduction of wages. The men were paid off and the yard closed.

The Brittania Iron Works at Middleboro' have closed, throwing two hundred men out of employment.

Notes of the Cornish Bank are changing hands to-day at considerable discount, and the depositors and creditors are not so sanguine of receiving full payment.

France.

PARIS, Jan. 2.—Specie in Bank of France decreased 30,000 francs during the week.

PARIS, Jan. 3.—The river continues to rise in consequence of the rapid thaw, the Rhone, Saone and Loire being principally affected. The Aube has overflowed its banks at Nogent.

It is reported that pardon has been granted to twenty-four communist exiles in New Caledonia for services against the insurgents in that colony.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—The United States sailing ship Supply, with goods from the Paris Exposition, left Havre on Saturday for New York.

PARIS, Jan. 5.—The Senatorial elections which took place to-day resulted in a great Republican triumph. Of 47 conservative Senators whose terms have expired, only 13 were reelected. All the retiring Republican Senators have been reelected. The general result is 24 Republicans elected out of 75. Conservatives and 64 Republicans. The Republican majority in the Senate will be about 57.

The electoral statistics wonderfully corroborate the reports of progress made by the Republican party in France. Fifty-six Conservatives elected in 1876 received 15,646 votes, whereas in 1879 they only obtained 2308. Nineteen Republicans elected in 1876 received 5636 votes and in 1879 received 10,362. All the details of the elections add to the crushing character of the Conservative defeat. In Gironde, which was hitherto an Imperialist stronghold, all the Republican candidates were elected. Five Republicans were successful in the Nord, which was also formerly noted for its reactionary sympathies.

PARIS, Jan. 6.—Two detachments of the gendarmerie of Versailles have been sent to the departments of Herault and Eastern Pyrenees to put a stop to the attacks made by armed brigands from Spain, which have alarmingly increased of late.

The morning papers, commenting on the Senatorial elections yesterday, agree that the result is a crushing blow for the Bonapartists. The majority in the Senate now consists of moderate Republicans, and it is considered probable that the Dufaure cabinet will remain in office.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The *Times'* Paris dispatch says that additional returns make the number of Republicans elected to the Senate 66.

The French Government has given a year's notice of the termination of all treaties of commerce. This is simply a measure of precaution to leave the hands of France free, in view of Bismarck's new economic policy and the difficulty of concluding a new treaty with Austria.

Germany.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The *Times'* Berlin special says that a majority of the Federal Council are friendly to the general principle of Bismarck's financial scheme, and it is thought that Bismarck will secure the support of the rural members of the Reichstag by protecting the native corn and cattle.

BERLIN, Jan. 4.—The *Post*, discussing the attitude of the Danish court towards the Hanoverian separatists, considers itself justified in asking whether the relations between Germany and Denmark are about to undergo a change.

It is said that Bayard Taylor's Goethe collection of rare volumes will shortly be sold. Mrs. Taylor's return to America is still unfixed, the landlord refusing to allow her to surrender her house until the expiration of the lease.

Spain.

MADRID, Jan. 4.—Juan Moncasi, who attempted to assassinate the King of Spain in the streets of Madrid on the 25th of October last, was executed at 8.55 o'clock this morning. The instrument of execution, a garroting chair, had been erected on a rather low scaffold in the plaza, which was lined with a military force and crowded with spectators. On ascending the scaffold Moncasi was placed in the chair, and the fatal collar of iron adjusted around his neck. The priest placed the crucifix to the pallid lips of the condemned, the executioner gave a sudden turn of the lever at the back part of the chair, and Moncasi's head fell forward on his chest, and all was over.

MADRID, Jan. 5.—Seven individuals, forming an internationalist committee in Xeres, have been arrested and important documents found on them.

MADRID, Jan. 6.—It is reported that the illustrious statesman, Don Espartero, is at the point of death, having had an attack of apoplexy.

General Items.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Grand National Exhibition to be held in Moscow in 1880 will probably be accompanied by great festivities, as it will be the 25th anniversary of the Emperor's accession.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 3.—A plague has appeared among the Cossacks of Astrachan. The sufferers are isolated, and many doctors have been summoned to their relief. Of the 195 persons attacked since the first instant 143 have died.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 3.—In the elections for members of the Folkething the moderate left has lost fourteen seats, of which the right gained seven. The radical left lost six seats to the right, and the latter lost two seats.

LISBON, Jan. 5.—Angell, the embezzler, will be taken to Philadelphia by American police on board the barque Shooting Star.

ROME, Jan. 5.—Ministers Depretis and Majeroni, seeking re-election on taking office in the new cabinet, have been returned by large majorities.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 6.—A supplement of the *Official Gazette* announces that the plague in Astrachan, which was abating, has revived with great virulence since the recent thaw. The authorities of Saratow are taking every precaution to prevent a spread of the epidemic. A convention of medical officers and other functionaries will be held to-morrow under the Presidency of the Minister of the Interior, to consider measures for the stamping out of the disease.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The *Tagespost* learns on good authority that the Pope is consulting as to the advisability of calling a new Ecumenical Council.

The Eastern Question.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—United States Consul General Heap at Constantinople has obtained £300 for Romer's expenses. Romer will leave for America Jan. 2.

The reports relative to arbitrary plans for the conversion of paper money raised the price of gold at Constantinople last week to 420, but the Government purchases of paper and police interference reduced this to 176.

The revolt of tartars at Kazan has been suppressed; 200 rioters were publicly flogged.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—A Vienna dispatch says: As the time for the election of a Prince of Bulgaria approaches, fresh candidates make their appearance. But Dondoukoff Korsakoff, the present Russian Governor of Bulgaria, according to all accounts, has taken care to be master in the Bulgarian Assembly and makes it elect whom Russia pleases.

VIENNA, Jan. 3.—The Politische Correspondez says that intelligence has been received from Scutari that the inhabitants of Podgoritza have telegraphed the Sultan of their determination not to submit, in any case, to the enforcement of the Berlin treaty. Simultaneously with this notice the authorities of Podgoritza demolished the dwellings of those inhabitants of Spuz who had gone to tender submission to Montenegro.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 3.—It is stated that the Montenegrins intend to forcibly enter Podgoritza without awaiting the arrival of the Turkish commissioners at Scutari.

The Porte has informed Prince Labanoff that it has absolutely resolved to surrender Podgoritza. If the commissioners fail to persuade the inhabitants it will withdraw the Turkish troops and functionaries. Prince Labanoff has replied that the surrender of Podgoritza will accelerate the evacuation of Turkish territory by the Russians.

Suleiman Pasha's appeal has been rejected. He has been degraded and exiled for life, and now appeals to the Sultan for pardon.

PESTH, Jan. 5.—The Hungarian deficit for 1879 is estimated at 22,802,398 florins.

TUNIS, Jan. 5.—The French consul has received telegraphic orders to demand a requisite satisfaction from the Bey.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—A Vienna despatch says that the difficulties which had arisen regarding the Russian evacuation of the Dobrudscha are said to have been smoothed away, and General Todleben has ordered the evacuation to begin on the 12th of January.

The *Times'* Vienna correspondent speaks very hopefully of the negotiations which recommenced on the 1st of January for definitive Turco-Russian convention. The Russians appear to be making *bona fide* preparations for embarkation from Bourgas.

The *Standard's* Berlin dispatch reports that the Sultan has ordered the withdrawal of all propositions objectionable to Russia, if the latter consents to reduce the indemnity. It is also said that Russia is inclined to acquiesce in this.

It is semi-officially reported in Vienna that Russia has promised to evacuate Bulgaria and Roumelia on the first of April.

The Afghanistan War.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Viceroy of India telegraphs that General Stewart reports the completion of a good road suitable for heavy artillery over Shutargin pass.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent with the Quetta column says that the artillery has safely passed the Khojak Pass. The bulk of General Biddulph's division is now on the plains at Quetta.

A despatch from Peshawur to the *News* states that the turbulence of the mountaineers has closed the Khyber pass for the last three days, except to strongly escorted convoys. This condition of affairs foreshadows the abandonment of the project of construcing a telegraph line through the pass. There is chaotic confusion between the commissariat and the transportation department. One Sikh regiment has been withdrawn from the field massacre of the Envoy. Half the camels and sixty-four have died. One English regiment has been withdrawn from Ali Musjid, because of the sickness among its members.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The *Telegraph's* correspondent reports that the Afghans have flooded the country around Candahar, and all non-combatants are leaving that city.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—The Viceroy of India telegraphs December 31 the details of the Ameer's withdrawal from Cabul. The Ameer held a durbar on December 10, when it was resolved that after the fall of Ali Musjid and Peiwar, no further reliance could be placed on his troops, or resistance offered. The Ameer, therefore, concluded to seek Russian protection and place his case before a European congress, leaving Yakoob Khan as his son, in charge. Yakoob Khan was released the same day, and an oath administered that he should do as the Ameer directed. The Ameer left Cabul, December 13. His authority had almost disappeared. A despatch from the Viceroy, January 3, says that the Cabulese chief has written to General Roberts offering his services. He says that the Ameer has gone to St. Petersburg.

A despatch from Hazir-Pir says that General Roberts had arrived within sight of the residence of the governor of Khost, who sent in his submission.

The British are within three days' march of Candahar. Hostile outposts have sighted each other. A despatch from Allahabad states that it is rumored that Yakoob Khan is preparing to flee, probably in the direction of Herat.

The *Times* in a leading editorial, says the rectification on the frontier will probably consist in the retention of Pishin, the Khurum valley and Khyber pass, but there is reason to believe that intervening places will not be annexed.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The New York *Herald* communicates to the London press an account of an interview at Tashkend between Gen. Kaufmann and Jas. Gordon Bennett. The former stated that he received a letter from the Russian General Rasgonoff, announcing that he accompanied Shere Ali in his flight for the Russian frontier. General Kaufmann said he had applied to Prince Gortschakoff for instructions concerning the reception of the Ameer, but had received no answer to date.

The Viceroy of India telegraphs that Syad Mahomed, chief of the Kamur Valley, who sent a friendly letter to Major Caragnari recently, is expected at Jellalabad early this week. Wali Mahomed has arrived to help Yakoob Khan's call to Cabul. Some of Shere Ali's body-guard that accompanied him to Turkestan have deserted and returned to their homes.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1. A supposed incendiary fire at Tuscorara, Nevada, last night destroyed nearly a block of buildings on Main street, including the Young America Hoisting Works. Loss $40,000.

The Minnesota Hotel and eight smaller buildings at Portland, Oregon, were burned last night. Loss $20,000.

SAN FRANISCO, Jan. 2. A Santa Barbara dispatch says: About 9 P. M., in the midst of a storm of wind and rain, a tornado struck the city from the southeast. Its course was a narrow path, two through several blocks, unroofing and blowing down houses and outbuildings and uprooting trees. William Goss was killed by a falling chimney. About 90 feet of the steamer wharf was carried away.

The steamer Belgia arrived from China and Japan this evening. She brings the following news:—

Hong Kong, Dec. 3. There is no further authentic intelligence respecting the movement of the pretender Li to the throne of Annam, but reports of his rapid advance toward the capital of that kingdom, but the Chinese authorities discountenance inquiry. Tsng, the new minister to England and France, has sailed for his post. Great hopes are entertained by the liberal party from this young reformer's mission.

Yokohama, Dec. 13. Affairs of Japan and Corea are in *statu quo*; no necessity of an appeal to arms is apprehended. Secret diplomatic arrangements are in progress between the British and Chinese legations in Japan, of which the purport is unknown, but create much curiosity, especially on the part of Russian agents. The political aspect is unchanged, notwithstanding the strong endeavors of the British representatives to show the condition unsettled and alarming. The government is in fact as strong and is trusted as much as at any time during the past decade.

FROM MEXICO.

HAVANA, Jan. 6. A steamer from Vera Cruz brings dates of the City of Mexico to the 30th of December. The Senate, before adjournment, approved the postal convention regulations, and Mexico is expected to enter the union shortly.

The Government organ announces that ex-Governor Bravo, who headed the rising in Colima and Michoacan, has been killed with fourteen of his followers.

The Mexican Minister to Chili has offered to restore the good understanding between Chili and the Argentine Republic.

The Government has made another shipment of $75,000 in payment of the third installment of the debt due the United States. This will make $252,000 paid. The remaining $48,000 is ready for forwarding, with $60,000 for the difference between silver and American gold.

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ Farmers are offering good sound apples at Westfield for 75 cents per barrel.

☞ The operations of the Boothbay factory for the past year consisted of 68,400 pounds of mackerel canned, and fror 150,000 to 175,000 pounds of lobsters. There has been paid out from $7000 to $8000 for fish and labor in the factory.

☞ At Bangor, Me., Jan. 3, the examination of Robert Geaton for the wilful murder of Frank McKelvry closed in the Police Court. Geaton was held in the sum of $2000 for trial at the February term for manslaughter.

☞ Comptroller Hubbard opened the new State House at Hartford, Conn., to the public Jan. 1, and the edifice was visited by thousands of people. The legislative halls and all the public offices were thrown open to visitors.

☞ The formidable character of the recent snow blockade between Buffalo and Rochester may be inferred from the fact that the first train through from Buffalo to Rochester consisted of eight locomotives and nineteen coaches, or a locomotive for every two cars. The train was covered with snow and icicles when it entered the station, and presented a fine sight. The next train comprised seven engines and sixteen cars.

☞ Thursday afternoon, 2d, ten convicts in the Michigan Penitentiary broke out of the stone cutters' shed and made a desperate effort for liberty, the yard being enclosed only by a board stockade. One convict was shot dead by the guard, and another was shot through the bowels and will die. The remainder escaped from the yard. Two were shot by guards, both dropping with a broken leg. Five others were soon recaptured, John Donahue being the only one now at liberty.

☞ Investigation at Providence has shown that the paper of the Sprague Company, which was once so eagerly sought for by speculators and money brokers, was last quoted on August 15, 1878, at 13¾ cents, at which time $8500 worth was sold. The whole amount of paper sold since Dec. 20, 1876, amounts to but $188,450, and it is said that if the bids could have been kept up to 25 cents on the dollar, many holders of the paper would gladly have sold out at that sum. This $188,450 on the face of the paper realized only $38,550 50, a falling off of $149,899 50.

☞ Charles T. Scott was killed in North Guilford, Vt., the 1st, while chopping, by a limb falling on him.

☞ Mr. Vernon Titus, one of Worcester's oldest and best known citizens, fell dead of heart disease on Saturday morning, while building a fire. He was 75 years old.

☞ The market for butter at St. Albans, Vt., on Tuesday, 31st ult., was dull, and prices ranged from 10 to 22 cents per pound.

☞ On resumption day, when the Sub-Treasurer in New York posted up his coin, he found that he had $270,000 more of gold than before he begun to redeem legal tenders.

☞ J. T. Carrier's saw mill and chair stock manufactory at Readsboro', Vt., was burned a few days since. Loss $3000; insured for $1200.

☞ In Fall River, Jan. 3, a fire in a four-story tenement block on Division street, belonging to Wm. Kennedy, burned off the roof, with part of the upper story. Valued at $3000; insured for $2000.

☞ James F. Leach of Bridgewater has brought a suit against the town of Raynham for $10,000 damages on account of a defective highway, by which his carriage was recently upset.

☞ At Amherst, Mass., a building occupied by Harvey White, carpenter, a fish market, the Grand Army and grangers' halls, was burned on Friday night, 3d. Loss about $2100; insurance $2100.

☞ The dwelling house owned and occupied by Calvin Cann, in Danvers, was totally destroyed by fire on Friday night, 3d. The occupants barely escaped with their lives. The loss is estimated at $2000, on which there is a partial insurance.

☞ There is said to be a general movement at Liverpool for a reduction of wages in all branches of engineering and shipbuilding trades. The movement is likely to extend to the shore gangs of the great steamship companies.

☞ Fifty revenue officers have returned to Cincinnati from a raid upon the Moonshiners in the border counties of Kentucky and Tennessee. They report the destruction of over fifty distilleries and capture of a large number of distillers. It is thought the business is pretty well broken up in that region.

☞ Mrs. Ann Cutler (colored), of Hampton, was burned to death Friday, 3d, her clothing taking fire while she was removing a kettle from the stove. She was 79 years old, and the widow of Rufus E. Cutler of Exeter, N. H.

☞ A terrible coasting accident occurred at Newport, R. I., 3d, one double team running into another, throwing off one of the occupants, Patrick Harrington, and breaking and lacerating his leg in a most shocking manner.

☞ Washington Chaplin, Jr., of Naples, Me., was caught in the machinery of his mill Jan. 1, tearing his right hand nearly off and crushing his arm and shoulder. He also sustained severe internal injuries. The chances of his recovery are doubtful.

☞ A severe gale did much damage at Westfield on Friday night, 3d, to roofs, chimneys, etc. Many of the latter were blown down, and the tin roofs of the Music Hall, Westfield House and Morgan's block were partially torn off. The total loss will reach about $3000.

☞ A. E. Moore, alias Bishop, alias Page, the forger, who was arrested in Boston, was up for a hearing at Newport, Vt., on Saturday, before Judge Sargent. The prisoner waived examination, and was held in $4000 for trial, in default of which he was sent to Irasburg jail.

☞ Niagara river below the falls is spanned by a bridge of ice one mile long and sixty feet thick. The river has been spanned in this way before, but seldom if ever so early as now. This unexpected appearance of the bridge is accounted for by the vast quantities of snow and ice which passed into the river from Lake Erie after the late heavy storm.

☞ Sunday night at Carbon, Wyoming, twenty-five or thirty masked men broke open the baggage car and took and hung to a telegraph pole "Dutch Charley," who was en route to Rawlins for trial charged with participation in widow Field's murder last fall. He was a notorious character and had been identified with a number of stage robberies.

☞ The rope which works the elevator in Anthony & Swift's packing house, Fall River, broke Friday afternoon, 3d, while the elevator was at the top story, letting it fall with great force to the lower floor. Jesse K. Palmer and George M. Anthony were on the elevator at the time and went down with it. The former was hurt dangerously about the head; the other had a shoulder dislocated and an ankle sprained.

☞ The Railway Commissioners gave a hearing in this city Jan. 3, on the petition of the Selectmen of Littleton for additional facilities over the Nashua, Acton & Boston Railway. Only a single passenger car, attached to a freight train, is now run over the road per day, and parties living on the line of the road complain that they cannot come to Boston and return the same day. On the other hand the managers of the road assert that the road does not pay running expenses. It cost in December $20 per day above the receipts to run the road.

☞ At Gloucester, Mass., Jan. 4, the brick building 65 and 67 Main street was destroyed by fire. It belonged to the Samuel Bulkley estate and was occupied by Councilman Jas. H. Joyce, boot and shoe dealer, and as a tenement by Councilman Albert H. Bulkley, whose family had a narrow escape, being taken from the burning building in their night clothes and saving none of their wearing apparel. Loss about $3000 on building, $2000 on store stock and $800 on furniture. Insurance $5500.

☞ A distressing accident took place at the Spring Hill coal mines near Amherst on Saturday. A lad named Hall, aged 14, son of the resident manager, went too near the cog gear of the rotary screen. His mitten caught between the cog wheels, and inch by inch his hand, and then his arm, with coat and shirt sleeves, were drawn in and literally chopped to bits. His side and face came in contact with the revolving wheels, and were severely scraped and bruised. His shoulder-bone finally stopped the machinery, and the young sufferer was promptly released from his perilous position. Very slight hopes of his recovery are entertained.

☞ At two o'clock Friday morning, 3d inst., fire consumed the dwelling house and barn at Walpole owned by Martin Griffin. Mrs. Griffin was rescued from the building by a brakeman on a freight train on the Boston, Clinton & Fitchburg Railroad, who was passing at the time of the fire. The contents of the barn, together with two horses and three cows, were burned. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it began in the barn. The loss is about $5000; insured for $800 on the house and barn, and $1000 on the stock. About noon a second fire destroyed the dwelling house owned by Benjamin Neal, together with a part of the furniture. The loss is about $2000; no insurance. The remains of Mrs. Neal were found in the cellar of the house. She was an eccentric woman and lived apart from her husband, alone. Her clothing probably caught fire and from them communicated to the house.

☞ A dispatch from Lexington, Ky., confirms the arrest on the 23d ult., of four of the Breathitt county (Ky.) rioters, under warrants issued by Judge Randall, who, with the Sheriff, were aided by Capt. Taylor and a detachment of the State Guards. The names of those secured are Jerry Little, Jack Little, Al Little and Alfred Gamble. They are the most desperate of the gang. The Judge and Sheriff slept in the Court House with the troops. Referring to the Breathitt county troubles the *Courier-Journal* correspondent at Camp Taylor says: "The action of Judge Randall in arresting all the ringleaders on Gambrel and Littleside has created consternation and dismay among those who have been concerned in the late difficulties, and Breathitt county to-day is the most peaceful in the State. This morning Brock Combs, son of jailor Combs, was arrested and jailed, charged with being implicated in the murder of Judge Burnett. This makes five of the Little party now closely confined. John Aikman is yet at large, and if he don't desire to give himself up it is extremely doubtful whether they will be able to find him."

Business Notices.

A Lady after reading Mrs. Wiley's statement came to our store and bought a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla for her mother who lives in Maine, saying she was a great sufferer from Scrofulous sores and must be even worse than Mrs. Wiley was, if possible. A few days since she came for more, said her "mother hadn't felt so well for years and is helping her wonderfully." Sold by druggists. C. I. HOOD & CO., Lowell, Mass. 5t51

Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, Dec. 31, by Rev. Henry F. Allen, Mr. Dalton Fallon, of Lawrence, to Miss Jennie Robinson, second daughter of Chas. F. Lougee, Esq.

Dec. 31, by Rev. Daniel Richards, George C. Tate, Jr., to Emma L. Draper.

Dec. 31, by Rev. A. J. Gordon, Geo. E. Bullard to Susie E. Daniels, both of Braintree.

Jan. 1, by Rev. S. S. Houghton, Nathaniel M. Robbins to Ella R. Davidson.

Jan. 1, by Rev. Wm. R. Clark, Arthur H. Smith to Ernestine Ditzon.

Jan. 1, by Rev. Phillips Brooks, Sidney W. Burgess to Alice R., daughter of the late J. E. Thayer.

Jan. 1, by Rev. Dr. Webb, Seth C. Burnham, Esq. to Miss May Wellman, both of Farmington, Me.

In South Boston, Jan. 1, by Rev. Andrew Gray, Henry C. Wilcox, Esq., of Cambridge, to Miss Sarah E. Mayberry.

In East Boston, Jan. 1, by Rev. Warren H. Cudworth, Mr. Geo. A. Scott to Miss Sarah L Conley.

In Milton, Dec. 25, by Rev. Frederick Frothingham, Henry N. Bates, of Hyde Park, to E. Mabel Morse.

In Newton, Dec. 26, by Rev. T. S. Samson, Frank W. Harris to Addie M. Leathers, both of Peterboro', N. H.

In Lynn, Dec. 31, by Rev. A. A. Williams, George W. Allen, of New York, to Aggie I. Adams, of Lynn.

In Southboro', Dec. 31, by Rev. J. I. T. Coolidge, D. D., Walter Deane, of Cambridge, to Margaret Chapman Coolidge, daughter of the officiating clergyman.

In Townsend, Jan. 1, by Rev. A. P. Newton, Mr. Albert L. Fessenden to Miss Lizzie A. Hill.

In Reading, Jan. 1, by Rev. W. H. Wilcox, Geo. K. Brooks to Lizzie F. B., daughter of Joshua Clark.

In South Abington, Dec. 25, by Rev. L. C. Barrett, Rev. L. B. Hatch to Myra B. Gurney.

In Brookline, Jan. 2, by Rev H. C. Marble, Wallace D. Dexter, of this city, to Lizzie Chase, daughter of Edward C. Wilson.

In Brookline, by Rev. M. V. B. Knox, Edwin E. Harrington to Carrie A. Bird.

In Chelsea, Dec. 25, by Rev. C. P. H. Nason, Mr. W. H. Davis to Miss Alice H., daughter of John H. Wilkinson, Esq.

In Somerville, Dec. 27, by Rev. Mr. Durell, Mr. Wm. H. Waite to Miss Annie E. Beattie. Jan. 1, by Rev. A. E. Winship, Jeremiah M. Raymond, of this city, to Eliza P. Stacy.

In Milford, Jan. 16, by Rev. Adln Ballou, Frank L. Young of this city, to Miss Minnie E. Jones.

In Deering, Me., Jan. 1, by Rev. E. Y. Hincks, Chas. D. Lamson, of this city, to Miss Anne K., daughter of Warren Sparrow, Esq., of Portland, Me.

In Concord, N. H., Jan. 1, by Rev. Samuel C. Beane, Mr. Geo. D. Huntley to Miss Sarah J., daughter of Baruch Biddle, Esq.

DIED.

In this city, Jan. 2, Annie A. Whitcomb, 48 yrs 3 mos.
Jan. 2, Mrs. Nancy Field,

Poetry.

From the Independent.

THE VILLAGE STORK.

BAYARD TAYLOR'S LAST POEM.

The old Hercynian Forest sent
His weather on the plain;
Wahlwinkel's orchards writhed and bent
In whirls of wind and rain.
Within her nest, upon her roof,
For generations tempest proof,
Wahlwinkel's stork with her young ones lay,
When the hand of the hurricane tore away
The house and the home that held them.

The storm passed by; the happy trees
Stood up and kissed the sun;
And from the birds new melodies
Came fluting one by one.
The stork, upon the paths below,
Went sadly pacing to and fro.
With dripping plumes and head depressed,
For the thought of the spoiled ancestral nest
And the old, inherited honor.

"Behold her now!" the throstle sang
From out the linden tree;
"Who knows from what a line she sprang,
Beyond the unknown sea?"
"If she could sing, perchance her tale
Might move us," chirruped the nightingale.
"Sing? She can only rattle and creak!"
Whistled the bullfinch, with silver beak,
Within the wires of his prison.

And all birds there, or loud or low,
Were one in scoff and scorn;
But still the stork paced to and fro,
As utterly forlorn.
Then suddenly, in turn of eye,
She saw a poet passing by,
And the thought in his brain was an arrow of fire,
That pierced her with passion and pride and ire,
And gave her a voice to answer.

She raised her head and shook her wings,
And faced the piping crowd;
"Best service," said she, "never sings,
True honor is not loud.
My kindred carol not, nor boast;
Yet we are loved and welcomed most,
And our ancient race is dearest and first,
And the hand that hurls us is held accursed
In every home of Wahlwinkel!

"Beneath a sky forever fair,
And with a Summer sod,
The land I come from smiles—and there
My brother was a god!
My nest upon a temple stands,
And sees the shine of desert lands;
And the palm and the tamarisk cool my wings,
When the blazing beam of the noonday stings,
And I drink from the holy river!

"There I am sacred, even as here;
Yet dare I not be lost,
When meads are bright, hearts full of cheer,
At blithesome Pentecost.
Then from mine obelisk I depart,
Guided by something in my heart,
And sweep in a line over Libyan sands
To the blossoming olives of Grecian lands,
And rest on the Cretan Ida!

"Parnassus sees me as I sail;
I cross the Adrian brine;
The distant summits fade and fail,
Dalmatian, Apennine;
The Alpine snows beneath me gleam,
I see the yellow Danube stream!
But I hasten on until my spent wings fail
Where I bring a blessing to each and all,
And babes to the wives of Wahlwinkel!"

She stooped her head and spake no more;
The birds on either hand
Sang louder, lustier than before—
They could not understand.
Thus mused the stork with snap of beak:
"Better be silent than so speak!
Highest being can never be taught;
They have their voices, I my thought;
And they were never in Egypt!"

American Legation, Berlin, Germany, Nov. 12, 1878.

A Selected Story.

From The Argosy.

THE FATE OF THE FOSBROOKES.

Though possessed of no actual patent of nobility, the Fosbrookes of Fosbrooke Manor held their heads as high, and were as proud of their long descent, as any Baronet in the county. And with good cause; so many intermarriages with right noble dames were emblazoned on that roll, so broad were the acres over which the Squire held manorial and territorial sway, so fine a specimen of Tudor architecture was his grand old mansion, that the lord of the manor it represented might well be pardoned if he boasted the blue blood which had come to him through successive maternal veins, and forgot that he held no other lordship.

The Fosbrookes of Fosbrooke, however, were not given to boasting. They had been Squires of the land for so many generations that their position was assured, and needed no trumpet-tongue to proclaim it. I am myself a Fosbrooke, and perhaps inherit the old leaven, if I inherit nothing more.

For it happens, I am but the descendant of a degenerate and disowned Fosbrooke, who struck a deadly blow at the family pride, and my name—neither Rupert nor Reginald, but blunt, plain John, barrister at law—may be found on the lintels of a door in the Inner Temple; and three months ago Fosbrooke Manor was known to me only through tradition.

My grandfather's grandfather, so I have been told, was the Squire's second son, and destined for the Army in accordance with established precedent. But he, Rupert, had no mind to gird a warrior's sword upon his thigh. He had watched the family portraits grow warm and life-like under the hand of Gainsborough; had gone with the artist into the woods and terraced gardens, in quest of fitting backgrounds; and, lingering by his side, the longing grew within himself to be a painter, and reproduce on the lifeless canvas the loveliness of life and nature. Unknown to Squire or Dame, their son sketched by Gainsborough's side; and he, proud of his art, fostered the youth's enthusiasm, all unwitting of mischief.

Thus it chanced that when the rising painter returned to the metropolis, after a prolonged stay in the ancient Manor House, he left behind a pupil longing to emulate his master, as well as a group of pictures in the oaken gallery.

Then it was discovered that Rupert dabbled in pigments; but so long as he only handled his brush for amusement, he might copy the old pictures on the wall, group together cottage children, or case a groom in armor from the staircase, and transfer to the panels of his chamber his crude imaginings of art, with no further token of disapprobation than the contemptuous laughter of his father and brother, who regarded a fox's brush as a trophy, but a painter's as the mere tool of a craftsman. Yet the very taunts and sarcasms which followed the young laggard in the hunting-field, the unsportsmanlike shot in woods or stubble, drove him for refuge to the solitude of his own chamber, and for solace to the art contemned by those around him.

But not until Rupert declined to be a soldier did opposition culminate and wrath grow fierce. In vain did the good mother plead with son and sire; in vain did Reginald urge his brother to renounce his degrading pursuit as a slur on their ancient lineage and escutcheon, holding up the army as the only path for a Fosbrooke.

Rupert was as persistent as his elder brother, as resolute as his father was vehement; all argumentation ending with the same resolve:

"I will *not* lay down my paint-brush for a sword."

Then by heaven I'll make a bonfire of your painting rattletraps! No son of mine shall spend his days in daubing canvas to disgrace us all!" cried the old Squire in his wrath.

Presently there was a great blaze in the court-yard, that seemed to flame again in the dark eyes of Rupert, who stood in the doorway with knitted brows and folded arms, a fire kindling in his heart as all his treasures went to feed the holocaust.

His lip curled. "Ay, burn them, an' you will; I shall be a painter notwithstanding."

"You paint no more in Fosbrooke Manor, Master Rupert," replied his father with decision. "There is your commission, take it or leave it. But if you leave it you quit Fosbrooke at once and forever. See then if brush or sword be best to fight your way with."

"You may cast the commission among the burning rattletraps," retorted the young man proudly. "I'll none of it. You have kindled a fire to destroy, and it will die in ashes; but the fire of genius is unquenchable, and that creates."

"No weeping, madam," shouted the Squire, as Dame Fosbrooke's kerchief went to her tearful eyes. "Let him carry his genius elsewhere. He paints no more under this roof. And look you, Sir," he called after Rupert, "if ever you put a living foot on this threshold while I'm above ground, I'll have you pitched out neck and crop, you ungrateful whelp."

Reginald stood apart, but made no sign of interposition. Rupert turned. "At your bidding, Sir, I go. Fosbrooke Manor is now no place for me. But, living or dead, I shall come back to my home some day, and none shall say me nay when next I paint beneath its roof."

He sought his sorrowing mother, and clung to her embrace, but, proud and persistent as his kin, tore himself away. In half an hour he was on the road to London, with naught but what his steed could carry, and his mother's tearful blessing.

Squire Fosbrooke closed the chamber of his degenerate son, and the avenues of his heart. He made a will in which he utterly renounced him, and thenceforth woe betide the luckless wight who dared to speak of Rupert in his hearing.

He had been his favorite child, the son of his age—a posse of girls had come between Reginald and him—and the wrench made in a moment of anger set his heart-strings quivering forever. But a Fosbrooke of Fosbrooke was never known to yield where the family honor was concerned, and silence as of the grave closed over Rupert's name within the shadow of the manor. If ever a whisper reached the mother's ear that he had found a welcome in Gainsborough's studio, the whisper never had an echo from her lips. The Squire, once bluff and hearty, grew stern—the blow he had dealt at his boy had fallen on himself.

Nothing was heard of Rupert for many years. His sisters married, and went their several ways to distant homes. Reginald alone was left. Then he took to himself a wife, and grandchildren ran in and out of the tapestried rooms with a pleasant patter on the oaken floors, and climbed the old Squire's knee, and won smiles from the sad-eyed grandmother, who sighed so heavily as she watched their childish gambols.

The seasons came and went. It was the tenth anniversary of the day on which a prejudiced father drove forth his son (as stubborn as himself) to shape a future in an untried world. Ten years since Rupert, with the double fire of genius and obstinacy in his eye, rode away down the long beech avenue without one backward glance at battlements or mullioned windows to stir the deep emotions of his soul and change his purpose.

Squire Fosbrooke and his heir had been out with the hounds since dawn. The London carrier's wagon creaked slowly along a by-lane to the back of the great house, and there surrendered a square, unwieldy, flat packing-case, over which conjecture wasted itself, until the white-haired dame, yielding less to the curiosity of her grandchildren and their mother, Lady Annabel, than to some unconquerable impulse within herself, gave orders for the forcing of the lid. Whatever lay within was covered by a thick cloth on which was inscribed in bold characters:

"RUPERT FOSBROOKE'S ADDITION TO THE FAMILY PORTRAITS."

The elderly lady blanched to her very lips. With gesture rather than word she ordered the removal of the cover the while the children crowded round in wonderment, and Lady Annabel drew herself up disdainfully.

There, limned by no tyro, the discarded son of the house looked out from the canvas, older, manlier, nobler than of old, palette and brushes in hand, a fine boy's head before him on an easel; and by his side, with fingers lightly resting on his shoulder, a woman lovely as a painter's dream. No need the written legend to declare that Rupert's wife and son were also there portrayed; or that his had been the artist hand.

"Rupert Fosbrooke, Maud, his wife, and Rupert, his son," read Reginald's eldest boy. "Why, grandmother, who are they?"

"Your uncle, and your aunt and cousin, child," sobbed the bereaved old lady in broken accents, while the servants drew respectfully apart and whispered beneath their breath. Lady Annabel plucked her children away, saying:

"Uncle and aunt forsooth! They are neither kith nor kin of mine, boy. No common painter's doll-faced wife claims affinity with me!"

"Lady Annabel," said the elder, gathering up her form, "Rupert Fosbrooke is my dear son. I never disowned him. I will not disown the fair mate he has chosen. He would never stoop to one unworthy."

"Stoop! He had sunk to the portrait-painter's level ere he wedded his master's niece. I heard so much, Madam, when I was last in town." So saying, Lady Annabel swept away to give her little ones a lesson in pride of birth, and obliterate, if possible, the pictured relatives from remembrance.

Lady Annabel was no favorite with the old servants, and dark-eyed Rupert had been.

Reverently they obeyed Dame Fosbrooke's behest, and carrying the picture into the long dining-room, set it upright against the tapestried wall by the side of the carved buffet.

As the Squire entered with a troop of hungry hunting friends, the picture caught his sight. For a few moments he stood gazing upon it with changing color and breath that came and went; then, raising the whip he held, he struck at the figures fiercely, while he demanded hoarsely who had dared to brave him thus, and bade the servants haul it forth and burn it.

There was a bonfire blazing in the yard while the Squire and his friends supped, and Lady Annabel looked on with stern satisfaction from an upper window. But the packing case alone was burned. The picture itself had been smuggled into the closed chamber of the artist, and the good dame's secret was well kept; not for fee or reward, but for the love of Barbara Fosbrooke and her youngest born.

Four years Dame Barbara kept that secret, along with others, in her heart; and then, lying on her death-bed, she broke the long silence and prayed that Rupert might be summoned to close her dying eyes.

It may be that the Squire was likewise wearying for a sight of his discarded son, and only lacked a pretext for his recall, for he was no longer obdurate. No doubt in his hidden soul he had long repented his hasty orders anent the picture, and blamed the too obedient executants of his will. With barely a show of hesitation he consented, but Reginald and Lady Annabel, too crafty to demur, too proud to own a painter for a brother, threw obstacles in the way. "There was no clue to the vagabond's whereabouts."

From a locket worn concealed the feeble mother produced a tiny slip of paper. It held Rupert Fosbrooke's name and address. Here was an unlooked-for revelation. Annabel and Reginald exchanged glances.

"Ah! this implies correspondence. I presume, Sir, you had no knowledge of any communication with my brother."

Once this would have been a spark on tow. It passed unheeded. All the Squire seemed to hear was his wife's appeal for haste; which his own voice seconded on her account, he said. Himself wrote a hurried letter of recall. At once Reginald became officiously active. He dispatched a trusty messenger with the missive; so trusty, that he failed to return before the dame's ears were closed to any message he might bring.

Days went by. The white-haired Squire paced the corridors as anxiously expectant as the sick lady in the state bed. But the shifty or irritable answers of Reginald to her inquiries had aroused suspicion of treachery.

As the end drew nigh, she insisted on being carried to Rupert's chamber as the only chance of seeing the face of her lost son.

They thought her mind was wandering. Her meaning was clear enough to them all when her chair was placed in front of Rupert's picture, which yet bore the mark of the Squire's whip across its surface.

Not more eagerly did Barbara Fosbrooke's filming eyes trace the well-remembered lineaments of her banished son than did those of the old Squire, in whom affection had seemed so long dead; while Reginald and Annabel looked lost in amazement.

Life's fire relit in Barbara's wan features as she gazed; strength came to her anew. She kissed the Squire's brown hand as the other dashed from his eyes the fast-gathering tears; and then, marking the scowl on Reginald's swart face as he slunk behind her chair, she lifted up her withered right hand, and extending it toward the picture, said impressively, in a voice which seemed to have gained preternatural strength for the effort: "Rupert, my son, I call and thou dost not answer; I have longed for thee and thou dost not come. But thou shalt come, and thou and thine be masters of Fosbrooke when treachery has done its worst. I cannot die in my bed for lack of thy presence. But if there be treachery, let those who kept thee back answer it, for never shall a Fosbrooke die in his bed till the lost be recalled, and younger and elder join hands in love and friendship under the old root-tree."

"And mark you, Reginald! my curse shall cling to him who dares destroy or disturb the picture I have preserved and cherished, the solace of my old age."

The flickering flame was spent. Barbara Fosbrooke fell back in her chair; and there, with the painted eyes of son, grandson, and daughter-in-law fixedly set upon her, she closed her own forever.

He "would never set living foot in Fosbrooke Manor again" was the verbal message said to come from Rupert; and the old man winced as he listened, for the words were his own—never forgotten, it seemed, by either. He had no doubt of the messenger's fidelity; no thought of duplicity in his eldest-born. He accepted the answer as final; made no second attempt at reconciliation; never again mentioned Rupert's name. But from that hour a change fell upon him. All his old sports were neglected. Reginald might hunt and shoot, and fill the manor-house with roystering Squires: he kept himself aloof, and would pace the long corridor between his own chamber and Rupert's by the hour together, not seldom turning into the unused room and lingering there alone with his regretful memories.

The servants said he was bewitched; and Reginald threatened to burn Rupert's picture in earnest, since it seemed like to turn his father's brain. And no doubt he would have carried his threat into execution but for an appalling incident which made the very room and all within it a terror to him.

The only sport to which the Squire had clung was angling. It was quiet, and all noise and bluster had, as it were, died out of his life. Reginald strode in and about with heavy tread and resonant tones; *he* came and went as silently as the silver hairs fell from his thinning scalp, and sat in the shade of the alders and willows by the moat-side, heedless of the flight of time. At first his youngest grandson bore him constant company, and fished by his side with a willow wand for a rod, prattling in boy fashion, with or without reply.

One memorable evening, as Lady Annabel was about to retire for the night, and the housekeeper bore a lamp before her along the corridor, they saw a pale light streaming under the closed door of Rupert's room; then there was a moan, and a fall.

Both women screamed; Reginald and a troop of servants rushed up the wide staircase. The latter hung back when told the cause of alarm, but Reginald dashed open the door and found, as he had expected, his father lying senseless on the floor.

But where was the light the pair had seen? There was only the lamp in the housekeeper's hand. And the servants whispered among themselves.

The Squire was raised, and after a time revived. But he would give no explanation as to what had caused his swoon.

From that night, however, he would have no companion with him when he went to fish, sending his grandson back, kindly but peremptorily. He assigned no reason; and when the child cried, his lady mother encouraged him to disobey. His grandfather drove him back; but one day when so dismissed, he refused to depart, and then the Squire gave up his sport altogether, warning the boy not to go near the moat alone.

The warning was disregarded. Before many days were gone, a slimy and dripping form was drawn from the moat, and Lady Annabel, wringing her hands, accused the old man of having murdered her boy. And the Squire turned mournfully away—but answered never a word.

A month or more elapsed. Squire Fosbrooke came not to the breakfast-board. House and grounds were searched. He was found at last, lifeless, before the painting of his banished son.

Reginald, now lord of the manor, shut up the room once more, and kept the key. It was a needless precaution. From the time that Mistress Hope, the housekeeper, had confided to the steward that Rupert, the painter, had died in London the very night the old Squire was found senseless before his picture—from that time superstitious awe locked the door without a key. The old Squire, and he alone, would approach it night or day.

His death there confirmed the evil repute of the chamber, and Dame Fosbrooke's dying words were repeated under breath through house and village.

Mistress Hope, having long rebelled against the rule of Lady Annabel, retired on the pension left by the Squire.

In less than a couple of years Reginald Fosbrooke was pitched clean over the neck of his hunter, and Lady Annabel was left a widow, to reign supreme at the Manor during the three years of the heir's minority.

Then the steward followed Mrs. Hope to London, and, though late in life, they made a match of it. They did more: they rescued Rupert Fosbrooke's wife and son from the poverty into which they were falling.

When the picture scheme of reconciliation had failed, Rupert grew bitter and angry with himself for having made the advance. But when, through Mrs. Hope, he heard of his mother's death, and the haughty answer Reginald's messenger had conveyed to the Manor as from him, grief and vengeance alternated in his breast, and in the turmoil he could not paint, and disappointed his patrons. A brain fever set in, and he died execrating his brother Reginald, and threatening to haunt him and his until the wrong was righted.

Maud, the unfortunate painter's widow, though too proud too appeal to her haughty sister-in-law, was not to proud to accept the home made for her and her son Rupert by the faithful steward and his wife; who, in their turn, felt it only an honor to devote to the service of a Fosbrooke the money they had saved in other Fosbrooke service. They lived to see the younger Rupert married, and impressed on him for his descendants this record of family history and estrangement, coupled with the doom hanging over the elder branch of the family, insisting that in some secret manner every fatality which befell a Fosbrooke had been mysteriously foretold or provisioned within the haunted chamber of the discarded son.

So the story was handed down to me, with an addition of casualties by flood and field which had carried off the Fosbrookes, either in infancy or age, and which were only to be averted when the elder Fosbrooke extended the right hand of fellowship to the younger, and Rupert's heirs become masters of the Manor.

My grandfather believed this implicitly. As for myself, I was born in a skeptical and practical age, and have had to fight my own way so sturdily, I have had no leisure to waste on the ghostly traditions of bygone ancestors in a remote manor-house.

So it might have been to the end of the chapter but for a combination of fortuitous circumstances which, to say the least, were remarkable.

II.

My friend Stretton, the solicitor, of Clement's Inn, to whom I owe whatever success I have made, came to my chambers in the Temple one summer day, in unusual haste for him, and handed me a long brief and a stiff retaining-fee, saying: "There, run your eye over that! If you can talk the jury over to give our clients a verdict, your fortune's made!" and he gave me a quick tap on the shoulder.

I had taken up the paper languidly. "Myers against Fosbrooke."

With a quickening thrill I ran my eye rapidly over the brief and soon made myself master of its contents.

The client I was called upon to defend was Charles Fosbrooke, of Fosbrooke Manor; our opponent, the plaintiff, a neighboring landowner. The cause simply this:

Three of the Squire's children had been drowned by the upsetting of a small skiff on the moat. He at once vowed no more lives should be given up to its greedy waters, and set about its drainage. In so doing he unavoidably diverted the current of a small watercourse known as the Fosse-brook, to the alleged detriment and damage of the plaintiff's property.

Had the plaintiff not been litigious, the case might have been compromised at the outset, when the Squire offered compensation to Sir Joseph Myers.

By a strange coincidence, a letter lay open on my table before me, containing overtures from the opposite side, wherein my supposed hereditary antagonism to the Fosbrookes of the Manor was openly relied on as a reason why they should retain me as counsel, and I rejoice to hold their brief.

It is possible to have too low an estimate of human nature. Why should I, John Fosbrooke, exercise such gifts as I possessed in order to oppose my own distant kin, who had never done me a personal wrong?

I had just declined the plaintiff's brief, when Mr. Stretton put his head in at the door. I showed him the letter and my reply.

It remained for me to prove black was white, or to suffer a nonsuit. There is something in the old adage that "blood is thicker than water." I resolved to do my utmost for our client, in spite of dead-and-gone feuds. I threw myself into the case, ransacking legal records for points and precedents.

A day or two had elapsed. Leaving the Temple in the forenoon I encountered Stretton in the gateway, just as I was turning into Fleet-street. He caught me by the buttonhole and invited me to luncheon with him. As I hesitated, a light basket-phæton containing a gentleman and lady, with a small page in dark livery behind, drove under Temple Bar and stopped in front of us.

"By Jove!" exclaimed Mr. Stretton, and almost before the words left his lips the page was at the horse's head, and the gentleman, whose eyes and hair were black as my own, and who struck me as a disagreeable likeness of myself—but not a bad-looking fellow on the whole—had jumped out, throwing the reins to the lady, as lovely a brunette as it had been my fate to meet, with eyes as soft and melancholy as her companion's were eager and fiery.

With barely a word of apology to me, he drew the solicitor aside and began in a hurried voice I could not choose but hear:

"What's this your clerk tells me, Mr. Stretton? Do you know into what hands you have committed our case? This Mr. John Fosbrooke—"

"Is a very rising young barrister—could not be in better hands," interrupted the lawyer imperturbably.

"He claims kinship with the Fosbrookes of Fosbrooke, Sir. There is an old feud between this branch of the family and ours. You must withdraw the brief at any cost. He will ruin our cause. In my father's name I insist on the withdrawal of the brief!" This in answer to Mr. Stretton's visible protest.

I thought it quite time to interfere. As haughtily as himself I stepped forward. "Mr. Reginald Fosbrooke, I presume."

His bow said "Ay, and who on earth are you?"

"Your brief, Sir, and my retaining fee, shall be in Mr. Stretton's office in less than twenty minutes. There is no need to withdraw the case—I throw it up." And I turned on my heel under the archway. I met my clerk on his way to dinner and sent him back flying for the offending brief and Stretton's check, which lay unchanged in my drawer. I had heard Stretton's remonstrance as I went, and the other's annoyed response.

I had barely taken three steps after my clerk, when a crash and a shriek called me back. Reginald Fosbrooke was lying stunned on the pavement, the page was scrambling to his feet, a bystander had caught the affrighted horse, the carriage-wheel was crashing in collision with a cab, and the lovely occupant was in imminent peril.

Darting forward, I managed to extricate the lady from the phæton before the plunging animal had made a total wreck of it.

She seemed as lifeless as the man on the ground. My clerk was back by this time. Shouting to him to bring a doctor to my chambers, and to Stretton to have his prostrate client conveyed thither, I hurried forward with the insensible girl in my strong arms, and placed her in my own chair. The couch had soon another occupant.

"This will be quieter than a shop," I whispered to Stretton, "and we can keep the crowd out *here*." He nodded a sort of dazed assent.

Before a doctor reached us my charge had revived. And then her distress over her "dear brother," her "dear Reggy," was pitiable to witness.

I did my best to console her, and to assure her that her brother was not dead, only stunned, and would doubtless recover shortly; and, as she turned her liquid eyes in thanks on mine, I felt there was *one* Fosbrooke who could never be my enemy.

A couple of hours went by before Reginald Fosbrooke gave a sigh of returning animation. The doctor had muttered something of concussion of the brain, and internal injury from the horse's hoof; insisted on quiet, forbade removal, and, aside to Stretton and me, suggested telegraphing to friends.

Barbara—I could almost have guessed her name had not the injured man murmured it, as she knelt beside him in sobbing agony—caught the suggestion and remarked simply—so simply that I am sure the doctor thought her wits were wandering—"There is no need; they will already know of this catastrophe at home."

They must have had a telegraph of their own swifter than that of science! Surely enough, before the close of the afternoon Squire Fosbrooke—who must have been on the road before our message was dispatched—stood by the side of his eldest son, and clasped my hand with grateful earnestness as that of a stranger, saying he was glad he had found him alive. He was a grave, dignified, but not haughty man, prematurely old, and bent beneath the heavy burden of inexorable fate.

He and his daughter took possession of my chambers with many courteous apologies for turning them into a hospital; apparently unconscious that they were indebted to more than a chance namesake. Only the patient knew my antecedents; and when, at the close of the week, he recognized me as his involuntary entertainer, he grew irritably impatient to be removed.

The doctor shrugged his shoulders, his gentle sister shed tears, his father, Mr. Stretton, and myself remonstrated. The heir of Fosbrooke was wilful.

He was borne thence with the tenderest care; but barely had he crossed the threshold than violent hemorrhage set in, and only a lifeless body was carried into the neighboring hotel. A broken rib, displaced, had lacerated some internal organ.

Mourning did not arrest the lawsuit. The Squire, ignorant of Reginald's prohibition, wrung my hand at parting, and said he was sure his cause was in good hands. I had gone with them to the station, possibly drawn thither by the grateful thanks in Barbara Fosbrooke's every tone and gesture. Then it occurred to the Squire that I might better understand how the case stood between him and Myers if I went over the grounds and tracked the Fosse-brook; and he asked me to follow them down in time for his poor boy's funeral.

I went back to my chambers musing. Two strange events had come to pass. I, the descendant of Rupert the discarded, had been invited to the Manor. Moreover, I was in love with Barbara.

The Manor House was a magnificent pile with a background of waving woods. Perhaps it was the presence of undertakers, and a crowd of funeral guests with mourning robes and faces, made me feel the interior so gloomy in its grandeur, notwithstanding the faint smile of Barbara and the courteous reception of Barbara's mother.

Was it chance that assigned to me, the latest comer in the crowded mansion, the apartment at the end of the corridor? I had followed the servant mechanically, my mind filled with Barbara's greeting, and not his apologies; but my rapid survey of the hastily-prepared chamber set me thinking.

A label outside the oaken door showed that it was set apart for "Lawyer Stretton's friend." The hurried and bewildered servants had no conception that they had shown Rupert Fosbrooke's representative into Rupert's room.

If I had a doubt it was dispelled by the sight of a large picture reared against the wall, from which three faces seemed to look at me through a veil of dust.

I have not an atom of superstition in me—at least I had not then. It was rather with reverence than awe that I sacrificed my cambric handkerchief to the restoration of the picture. Then I was struck with the resemblance between my ancestor and myself; and wondered if any of the many assembled relatives would perceive it; never thinking how little was known of the faces I was scanning so minutely.

Yet I think my appearance at the dinner-table did excite some curiosity, if furtive glances and whisperings were any index. Sombre dresses and long faces spoiled the meal for me. I was glad when I found myself back in my room in front of a wood fire kindled at my request; and, taking advantage of the double doors, took out a cigar to make myself at home.

There was a suggestiveness of damp and rheumatism about the heavy velvet-hung four-post bed. I declined its invitation, preferring to wrap myself in my traveling-rug and stretch my limbs on an antique couch at right angles with the hearth. A second cigar sent me to sleep to dream of Barbara. I awoke shivering, with an uneasy impression of a hand laid on my shoulder to arouse me. The fire was almost out, the candles quite, but there was a light in the room, and—yes! in the very midst of that light stood Rupert the Painter, palette and brush in hand, painting away at a picture on his easel.

I rubbed my eyes and gave myself a shake. The artist was still at work, and I saw the picture growing under his brush. It was an Alpine scene familiar to myself. New figures appeared upon the canvas, toiling up the snowy ascent. The artist looks round at me, and back at his canvas. I see delineated a broken rope, a shivered alpenstock, and a figure slipping and falling headlong into a terrible crevasse.

Again the artist turns his head, and his dark eyes transfix me. The canvas is blank. Again the brush is plied. Judge, jury, counsel, take their places. I see a brother barrister of long standing addressing the court, see him painted out; and my very counterpart stands out in my very attitude and in my most eloquent mood. I see the effect on the faces of Judge and jury; it is cheering. The artist turns round and smiles. Picture, painter, easel, light, are gone! I am shivering in the dark, with hardly a ray of moonlight straggling through the windows.

I give myself another shake, say I am an arrant fool, conclude I have been dreaming, and compose myself to sleep again.

Convinced, when I awaken in the morning, that I have been dreaming, I say nothing at the breakfast table of my broken rest, not caring to excite either alarm or ridicule.

As Stretton and I return to town in the express the day after the funeral, I elicit from him that the Squire has another son, now traveling in Switzerland, to whom, of course, the heirship will descend. After that, I fear Stretton has but a stupid companion to the end of the journey.

My survey of the moat, converted into a shrubbery, and the track of the water-course in dispute, did not tell in my client's interest. Nevertheless, I went into court with a conviction I should win, although I scouted the idea of being influenced by a dream.

And I was successful. The case was dismissed as litigious and vexatious, and when I shook hands with our client, he insisted on my returning with him to the Manor, and said I did honor to the name I bore.

Other cases kept me in town until the end of term. Then I, John Fosbrooke, availed myself of the Squire's invitation, and was welcomed, Mrs. Fosbrooke offering many apologies for my being thrust into an unused room on my former visit. I protested I was perfectly satisfied, and thought it a pity so commodious a chamber should be left to me and the spiders.

The lady sighed and said no more. This time I occupied the adjoining room, smaller, but well kept, and less antique in its appointments.

The Squire took to me amazingly, and Barbara's heart opened to me. I hesitated how best to disclose my ancestry and propose for the sweet girl, when the whole fabric of my future was shaken by a telegram from Switzerland.

Charles Edward Fosbrooke had perished in the ascent of the Simplon. I was staggered, and the whole family were overwhelmed. It was no time for love proposals.

I volunteered a journey for the recovery of the body; saying that I knew the precise spot in which he was lying. This involved explanations of what I called my dream.

"Dream! It was no dream," cried Barbara and her parents, simultaneously.

"But who are you?" demanded the Squire, rising to his feet, "who have seen the spectral painter of our house? Rupert Fosbrooke never reveals the future save to one of his own near kin."

My answer and its effect may be imagined. An avalanche could scarcely have overwhelmed them more completely. The old Squire, his eyes suffused with tears, held out his hand to me.

"This is no time to perpetuate feud," said he. "Fate is too strong for us."

Need I add that I went to Switzerland and recovered the remains of the last heir of the elder Fosbrookes.

But ere I took my departure, unknown to the family I spent a night in the haunted chamber, still inclined to be skeptical. I came out next morning converted. Once more the mountain scene was painted before me, but I saw myself and guides recovering the lost, and the means employed.

Another picture was painted before me, and then the artist seemed to fling brushes and palette aside, and vanish with a benediction.

* * * * * * * *

I stand, with my now acknowledged relatives, by the grave of the Squire's last son, and see his tears fall fast on the coffin-lid before he turns away, and grasping my hand, calls me with a sigh the heir of Fosbrooke Manor.

I could hardly realize it then. I can realize it now, as I stand amid a perfect bower of holly and evergreens at Christmas in a pretty country church, and clasp the hand of Barbara before the altar, in that bond which forever re-unites the severed branches, and averts the fate of the Fosbrookes.

And this was the last picture shown to me—now a Fosbrooke of Fosbrooke, a picture of love and peace and good-will at Christmastide.

Ladies' Portfolio.

For the New England Farmer.

MILK PIES.

While spending a few days at a friend's, her pumpkin pies, which appeared upon the table quite often, were enjoyed so much that I inquired how she gave them such a delicious flavor. She replied that they were not pumpkin at all, but made from sweet apples stewed, sifted, and used in the same way, excepting that a little more egg was necessary than for pumpkin pies, and they needed to be mixed a trifle thicker.

As in years of great apple scarcity, pumpkins are sometimes made to serve the purpose of apples for cider "apple sauce," it would seem but natural that apples should do duty for pumpkins when they fail to put in an appearance, as they did this year—in this vicinity at least, very few farmers raising half a dozen pumpkins of any kind; and from what I have seen I have no doubt that sweet apples are a much better substitute for pumpkin in pies, than pumpkin pies are for apples in sauce.

The following receipt would make another very good substitute for pumpkin pies. I cut it from a paper several years ago, but never considered it worthy of trial until a custard pie was wanted, when we were destitute of eggs; but as it proved very good, I venture to offer it to the readers of the FARMER, to try, as I did, when short of pie materials.

Mock Custard Pie.

For a large pie take three-fourths of a quart of milk, and three somewhat heaped tablespoonfuls of flour. Let the milk come to a boil on the stove, stir into it the flour dissolved in a little cold milk, a pinch of salt, and sugar enough to sweeten as desired, flavoring slightly with extract of lemon. Cover a plate with crust and bake a few minutes in the oven, pricking it thoroughly to prevent its huffing up; then pour in the custard and bake until slightly browned. If obliged to remain in the oven long enough to bake all together, the inside will swell, boil over, and nearly all waste.

JULIA M. HARWOOD.

Worcester Co., Mass., Dec., 1878.

A WORD FOR THE GOOSE.

Choose your goose—first for its youth, which should not exceed six months. At this age the leg points will break readily, the beaks are brittle and fresh colored, the breast bone soft, the fat light, and the bird plump. Draw the day before cooking, removing all the fat. If the bird is a nice one of the kind described above, and if you have been careful in drawing it, no washing will be required. However, if you have any prejudices in the matter, let the washing be done quickly and in cold water, to which has been added a little salt. Wipe dry, wet inside and out with salt and pepper, and set away until you are ready to dress for the oven. For the dressing, mash fine about six potatoes, add an equal quantity of bread crumbs, two onions chopped fine and fried in butter, salt, pepper, and sage to taste, and butter the size of an egg. Fill the bird, bend the wings back, and bake from one and a half to two hours, basting with water.

Stew the giblets with an onion, and when the goose is done pour off all the fat from the pan, stir in a tablespoonful of flour, and when it browns add the minced giblets and the broth made by stewing them. When you have a smooth gravy of the right consistency season with salt, pepper, a teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce and the juice of half a lemon. Serve with apple sauce, which should be quite tart and very cold. If your family is large you will have no need of the following recipe; but there are small families of two or three to whom cold goose would be distasteful that may relish a goose pie. For this cut the meat neatly from the bones, pull off and discard every bit of fat and skin. Cover the bones with cold water, adding an onion and parsley; stew slowly for two or three hours, strain and set away to get cold. Make a good paste and line with it the sides of a deep quart pudding dish. Lay in the bits of cold meat interspersed with pieces of dressing and a little minced ham. An onion minced and two potatoes sliced and parboiled must be added. Remove the fat from the gravy and pour the latter over the meat. If it has jellied arrange it in alternate slices while filling the dish. Put in seasoning, cover with paste and bake three-quarters of an hour. This makes a good pie; can be eaten cold, and will keep a week.

From All the Year Round.

MOSS-ROSES.

White with the whiteness of the snow,
Pink with the faintest rosy glow,
They blossom on their sprays;
They glad the borders with their bloom,
And sweeten with their rich perfume
The mossy garden ways.

The dew that from their brimming leaves
Drips down, the mignonette receives,
And sweeter grows thereby;
The tall June lilies stand aneur,
In raiment white and gold, and here
The purple pansies lie.

Warm sunshine glitters over all,
On daisied sward and ivied wall,
On lily, pansy, rose;
While flitting round each perfect cup
With joyous laugh and airy tread,
A fairer sunbeam goes.

A little human blossom, bright
With childish, innocent delight
Of life yet in its dawn;
With sunshine prisoned in her hair,
Deep eyes unshadowed by a care,
She gambols on the lawn.

She checks the light elastic tread,
And stays to hear, far overhead,
The lark's long to the close;
Eyes shaded by two tiny hands—
We pray God bless her as she stands,
Our little daughter Rose.

Yes, bless the Rose, dear God, since we
Have given the Lily back to thee,
That blossom with her smile;
Yes, bless her deeply, doubly now,
For her dear sake, whose angel brow
Reflects Thine awful smile.

How often in her childish face,
Our hungry, longing eyes can trace
The look of one we miss;
How often in her merry tone
A music wakes, more sad than moan,
Of accents hushed for aye!

God bless the child to blossom here,
Our clinging human hearts to cheer,
Till life has reached its close;
To grow in sweetest grace and bloom,
To beautify the dear old home,
Our precious daughter Rose!

SALT WITH NUTS.—One time, while enjoying a visit from an Englishman, hickory nuts were served in the evening, when my English friend called for salt, stating that he knew of a case of a woman eating heartily of nuts in the evening, who was taken violently ill. The celebrated Dr. Abernethy was sent for, but it was after he had become too fond of his cups, and he was not in a condition to go. He muttered, "Salt! salt!" of which no notice was taken. Next morning he went to the place and she was a corpse. He said had they given her salt it would have relieved her; and if they would allow him to make an examination, he would convince them. On opening the stomach the nuts were found in a mass. He sprinkled salt on this and it immediately dissolved. I have known of a sudden death myself, which appears to have been the effect of the same cause. I generally eat salt with nuts and consider it improves them.—*Ger. Telegraph.*

APPLE BUTTER MAKING—TIME AND LABOR SAVED.—Take nine gallons of cider, boil down to three gallons; then add to the boiling cider about three gallons of apples that have been pared and quartered; boil rapidly for about two hours without ceasing, to prevent the apples from sinking. By this time they are well reduced and will begin to sink; thus far no stirring has been done, but must be commenced as soon as the apples begin to sink or they will scorch. Spice to suit taste. Stir without ceasing until it is reduced to a thick, smooth pulp, which will take about half an hour. I have kept apple butter made in this way perfectly good at two years old, without sealing, and it is as good, if not a better article than that made in the usual way. Many housekeepers will be astonished at the idea of apple butter and only half an hour's stirring, when they have been in the habit of being over a hot fire all day.—*Indiana Farmer.*

CODFISH CREAM.—Pick in shreds one pound of boneless codfish and soak it over night in cold water. Do not let it freshen too much. In the morning put in a saucepan nearly a pint of milk, and when it boils stir in an even tablespoonful of cornstarch dissol